

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
(REV 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

212289US0PCT

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/926299

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/JP00/02295

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

7 April 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

9 April 1999 (earliest)

TITLE OF INVENTION

L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

GUNJI Yoshiya et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in International Search Report/Notice of Priority

PCT/IB/304/Drawings (5 Sheets)/PCT/IB/308

Sequence Listing (31 sheets)/Substitute Sequence Listing (39 sheets)/Computer-readable sequence Listing

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">09/926299</div>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <div style="text-align: center;">PCT/JP00/02295</div>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <div style="text-align: center;">212289US0PCT</div>	
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24. The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 80%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: right;"> \$1040.00 \$890.00 \$740.00 \$710.00 \$100.00 </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;"> ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = </div>				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$890.00</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$0.00</div>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	27 - 20 =	7	x \$18.00	\$126.00	
Independent claims	6 - 3 =	3	x \$84.00	\$252.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1,268.00	
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$1,268.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).				\$0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$1,268.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1,268.00	
				Amount to be refunded	\$
				charged	\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$1,268.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

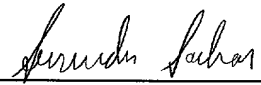
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423



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 SIGNATURE
 Norman F. Oblon
 NAME
 24,618
 REGISTRATION NUMBER
 Oct. 9 2001
 DATE

212289US-0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
YOSHIYA GUNJI ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION :
(Based on PCT/JP00/02295)
FILED: HERewith :
FOR: L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING :
BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR :
PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 with the following:

(10) The bacterium according to (1), wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-threonine-producing ability.

Page 33, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 with the following:

The gene which codes for DDPR of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "dapB") codes for DDPR which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the dapB gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide

sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 in SEQ ID NO: 11 can be mentioned. The dapB gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

Page 63, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 with the following:

Plasmids were extracted from the colonies of two strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMDAPA-1 and pMMDAPA-2, respectively. When *E. coli* AT997 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each transformant was grown in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium containing 100 μ g/ml of ampicillin, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture both. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPS activity was measured according to the method of Yugari et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol.240, and p.4710 (1965)) (Fig. 5: pMMDAPA-1, pMMDAPA-2). In addition the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 μ g/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 100 μ g/ml of ampicillin, and DDPS activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 5: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPS activity could be detected in each of the transformants harboring the plasmids having the insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that the obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as dapA).

Page 76 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please replace the original Sequence Listing with the substitute Sequence Listing appended to this Preliminary Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

8. (Amended) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 5, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

11. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.

12. (Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

14. (Amended) A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.

Please add new Claims 26-27.

26. (New) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 6, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

27. (New) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 7, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde

dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are active in the present application. Claims 8, 11-12, and 14 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 26 and 27 are new claims. Support for the new claims and amended claims is found in the original claims. The specification is amended to correct typographical errors.

Applicants have now submitted a substitute Sequence Listing and a corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing. The sequence information recorded in the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing is identical to the paper copy of the substitute Sequence Listing. Support for all of the sequences listed in the substitute Sequence Listing is found in the present application as originally filed. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the submission of the substitute Sequence Listing and the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing.

An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,518



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
NFO/DJP/law
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2000-06-01 10:00:00

Marked-Up Copy

Serial No:

10-9-01

Amendment Filed on:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 with the following:

--(10) The bacterium according to (1), wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-threonine-producing ability.--

Page 33, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 with the following:

--The gene which codes for [DDBR] DDPR of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*dapB*") codes for [DDBR] DDPR which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *dapB* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 in SEQ ID NO: 11 can be mentioned. The *dapB* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.--

Page 63, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 with the following:

--Plasmids were extracted from the colonies of two strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMDAPA-1 and [pMMDAP-2] pMMDAPA-2, respectively. When *E. coli* AT997 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each

transformant was grown in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium containing 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of ampicillin, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture both. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPS activity was measured according to the method of Yugari et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol.240, and p.4710 (1965)) (Fig. 5: pMMDAPA-1, pMMDAPA-2). In addition the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of diaminopimelic acid and 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of ampicillin, and DDPS activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 5: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPS activity could be detected in each of the transformants harboring the plasmids having the insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that the obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *dapA*).--

Page 76 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please replace the original Sequence Listing with the substitute Sequence Listing appended to this Preliminary Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--8. (Amended) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to [any one of claims 5 to 7] claim 5, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

11. (Amended) The bacterium according to [any of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.

12. (Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in [any one of claim 1 to 11] claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

14. (Amended) A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in [any one of claim 1 to 11] claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.--

Claims 26 and 27. (New)

5/pts

1

L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR
PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The present invention relates to techniques in the field of microbial industry. In particular, the present invention relates to a method for producing an L-amino acid by fermentation, and a microorganism used in the method.

10

BACKGROUND ART

 Amino acids such as L-lysine, L-glutamic acid, L-threonine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-valine and L-phenylalanine are industrially produced by fermentation
15 by using microorganisms that belong to the genus *Brevibacterium*, *Corynebacterium*, *Bacillus*, *Escherichia*, *Streptomyces*, *Pseudomonas*, *Arthrobacter*, *Serratia*, *Penicillium*, *Candida* or the like. In order to improve the productivity, strains isolated from nature or
20 artificial mutants thereof have been used as these microorganisms. Various techniques have been disclosed for enhancing activities of L-glutamic acid biosynthetic enzymes by using recombinant DNA techniques, to increase the L-glutamic acid-producing ability.

25 The productivity of L-amino acids has been considerably increased by breeding of microorganisms such as those mentioned above and the improvement of production methods. However, in order to meet further increase in the demand in future, development of methods

for more efficiently producing L-amino acids at lower cost have still been desired.

As methods for producing amino acids by fermentation of methanol which is a fermentation raw material available in a large amount at a low cost, there have conventionally known methods using microorganisms that belong to the genus *Achromobacter* or *Pseudomonas* (Japanese Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 45-25273/1970), *Protaminobacter* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 49-125590/1974), *Protaminobacter* or *Methanomonas* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 50-25790/1975), *Microcycilus* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 52-18886/1977), *Methylobacillus* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 4-91793/1992), *Bacillus* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 3-505284/1991) and so forth.

So far, however, no method has been known for producing L-amino acids by using *Methylophilus* bacteria. Although methods described in EP 0 035 831 A, EP 0 037 273 A and EP 0 066 994 A have been known as methods for transforming *Methylophilus* bacteria by using recombinant DNA, applying recombinant DNA techniques to improvement of amino acid productivity of *Methylophilus* bacteria has not been known.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a novel L-amino acid-producing bacterium and a method

for producing an L-amino acid by using the L-amino acid-producing bacterium.

As a result of the present inventors' efforts devoted to achieve the aforementioned object, they found
5 that *Methylophilus* bacteria were suitable for producing L-amino acids. Further, although it has conventionally been considered difficult to obtain auxotrophic mutants of *Methylophilus* bacteria (FEMS Microbiology Rev. 39, 235-258 (1986) and Antonie van Leeuwenhoek 53, 47-53
10 (1987)), the present inventors have succeeded in obtaining auxotrophic mutants of said bacteria. Thus, the present invention has been accomplished.

That is, the present invention provides the followings.

- 15 (1) A *Methylophilus* bacterium having L-amino acid-producing ability.
- (2) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.
- 20 (3) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), which has resistance to an L-amino acid analogue or L-amino acid auxotrophy.
- (4) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity is
25 enhanced.
- (5) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and aspartokinase activity are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

(6) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

5 (7) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein aspartokinase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

(8) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to any one of (5) to (7), wherein an activity or activities of one,
10 two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

(9) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (5),
15 wherein the dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and the aspartokinase activity are enhanced by transformation through introduction into cells, of a DNA coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine and a DNA coding
20 for aspartokinase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine.

(10) The bacterium according to (1), wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase, and the bacterium has L-
25 threonine-producing ability.

(11) The bacterium according to any one of (1) to (10), wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.

(12) A method for producing an L-amino acid, which

comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in any one of the above (1) to (11) in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

- 5 (13) The method according to (12), wherein the medium contains methanol as a main carbon source.

- (14) A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in any one of the above (1) to (11) in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.

- (15) The method for producing bacterial cells of the *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (14), wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.

- (16) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (A) or (B):

- (A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or

- (B) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 6 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartokinase activity.

- 25 (17) The DNA according to (16), which is a DNA defined in the following (a) or (b):

- (a) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5; or

(b) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartokinase activity.

(18) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (C) or (D):

(C) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or

(D) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

(19) The DNA according to (18), which is a DNA defined in the following (c) or (d):

(c) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7; or

(d) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

(20) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (E) or (F):

(E) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, or

(F) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 10 including substitution, deletion, insertion,

addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

(21) The DNA according to (20), which is a DNA defined in the following (e) or (f):

5 (e) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to 2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(f) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to
10 2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

(22) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (G) or (H):

15 (G) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or

(H) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 12 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and
20 has dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

(23) The DNA according to (22), which is a DNA defined in the following (g) or (h):

(g) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to
25 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

(h) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having

dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

(24) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (I) or (J):

(I) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ
5 ID NO: 14, or

(J) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ
ID NO: 14 including substitution, deletion, insertion,
addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and
has diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

10 (25) The DNA according to (24), which is a DNA defined
in the following (i) or (j):

(i) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to
1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13; or

15 (j) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to
1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13 or a part thereof under a
stringent condition, and codes for a protein having
diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

20 In the present specification, "L-amino acid-
producing ability" refers to ability to accumulate a
significant amount of an L-amino acid in a medium or to
increase the amino acid content in the microbial cells
when a microorganism of the present invention is
25 cultured in the medium.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows the production process of plasmid
RSF24P having a mutant *dapA*. The "*dapA**24" refers to a

mutant *dapA* that codes for a mutant DDPS wherein the 118-histidine residue is replaced with a tyrosine residue.

Fig. 2 shows the production process of plasmid RSFD80 having a mutant *dapA* and a mutant *lysC*. The "lysC*80" refers to a mutant *lysC* that codes for a mutant AKIII wherein the 352-threonine residue is replaced with an isoleucine residue.

Fig. 3 shows aspartokinase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing an *ask* gene.

Fig. 4 shows aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing an *asd* gene.

Fig. 5 shows dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing a *dapA* gene.

Fig. 6 shows dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity of a transformant *E. coli* strain containing a *dapB* gene.

Fig. 7 shows diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing a *lysA* gene.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

<1> Microorganism of the present invention

The microorganism of the present invention is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylophilus* and having L-amino acid-producing ability. The *Methylophilus* bacterium of the present invention includes, for example, *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1

strain (NCIMB10515) and so forth. The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) is available from National Collections of Industrial and Marine Bacteria (Address: NCIMB Ltd., Torry Research Station 135, Abbey Road, Aberdeen AB9 8DG, United Kingdom).

L-Amino acids produced according to the present invention include L-lysine, L-glutamic acid, L-threonine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-tryptophan, L-phenylalanine, L-tyrosine and so forth. One or more types of such amino acids may be produced.

Methylophilus bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability can be obtained by imparting L-amino acid-producing ability to wild strains of *Methylophilus* bacteria. In order to impart L-amino acid-producing ability, there can be used methods conventionally adopted for breeding coryneform bacteria, *Escherichia* bacteria or the like, such as those methods for obtaining auxotrophic mutant strains, strains resistant to L-amino acid analogues or metabolic control mutant strains, and methods for producing recombinant strains wherein L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activities are enhanced (see "Amino Acid Fermentation", the Japan Scientific Societies Press [Gakkai Shuppan Center], 1st Edition, published on May 30, 1986, pp.77 to 100). In breeding of amino acid-producing bacteria, the characteristic such as auxotrophy, L-amino acid analogue resistance and metabolic control mutation may be imparted alone or in combination of two or more. The L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity may be enhanced

alone or in combination of two or more. Further,
imparting of the characteristic such as auxotrophy, L-
amino acid analogue resistance and metabolic control
mutation may be combined with enhancement of the L-amino
5 acid biosynthesis enzyme activity.

For example, L-lysine-producing bacteria are bred
as mutants exhibiting auxotrophy for L-homoserine or L-
threonine and L-methionine (Japanese Patent Publication
(Kokoku) Nos. 48-28078/1973 and 56-6499/1981), mutants
10 exhibiting auxotrophy for inositol or acetic acid
(Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 55-
9784/1980 and 56-8692/1981), or mutants that are
resistant to oxalysine, lysine hydroxamate, S-(2-
aminoethyl)-cysteine, γ -methylllysine, α -
15 chlorocaprolactam, DL- α -amino- ϵ -caprolactam, α -amino-
lauryllactam, aspartic acid analogue, sulfa drug,
quinoid or N-lauroylleucine.

Further, L-glutamic acid-producing bacteria can be
bred as mutants exhibiting auxotrophy for oleic acid or
20 the like. L-Threonine-producing bacteria can be bred as
mutants resistant to α -amino- β -hydroxyvaleric acid. L-
Homoserine-producing bacteria can be bred as mutants
exhibiting auxotrophy for L-threonine or mutants
resistant to L-phenylalanine analogues. L-
25 Phenylalanine-producing bacteria can be bred as mutants
exhibiting auxotrophy for L-tyrosine. L-Isoleucine-
producing bacteria can be bred as mutants exhibiting
auxotrophy for L-leucine. L-Proline-producing bacteria
can be bred as mutants exhibiting auxotrophy for L-

isoleucine.

Furthermore, as mentioned in the examples hereinafter, strains that produce one or more kinds of branched amino acids (L-valine, L-leucine and L-isoleucine) can be obtained as strains exhibiting auxotrophy for casamino acid.

In order to obtain mutants from *Methylophilus* bacteria, the inventors of the present invention first examined details of an optimal mutagenesis condition by using emergence frequency of streptomycin resistant strains as an index. As a result, the maximum emergence frequency of streptomycin resistant strains was obtained when the survival rate after mutagenesis was about 0.5%, and they succeeded in obtaining auxotrophic strains under this condition. They also succeeded in obtaining auxotrophic strains, which had been considered difficult, by largely scaling up the screening of mutants compared with that previously conducted for *E. coli* and so forth.

As described above, since it has been revealed that mutants can be obtained by mutagenizing *Methylophilus* bacteria under a suitable condition, it has become possible to readily obtain desired mutants by suitably setting such a condition that the survival rate after the mutagenesis should become about 0.5%, depending on the mutagenesis method.

Mutagenesis methods for obtaining mutants from *Methylophilus* bacteria include UV irradiation and treatments with mutagenesis agents used for usual mutagenesis treatments such as *N*-methyl-*N'*-nitro-*N*-

nitrosoguanidine (NTG) and nitrous acid. *Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability can also be obtained by selecting naturally occurring mutants of *Methylophilus* bacteria.

5 L-Amino acid analogue-resistant mutants can be obtained by, for example, inoculating mutagenized *Methylophilus* bacteria to an agar medium containing an L-amino acid analogue at a variety of concentrations and selecting strains that form colonies.

10 Auxotrophic mutants can be obtained by allowing *Methylophilus* bacteria to form colonies on an agar medium containing a target nutrient (for example, L-amino acid), replicating the colonies to an agar medium not containing said nutrient, and selecting strains that
15 cannot grow on the agar medium not containing the nutrient.

Methods for imparting or enhancing L-amino acid-producing ability by enhancing L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity will be exemplified below.

20

[L-Lysine]

L-Lysine-producing ability can be imparted by, for example, enhancing dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and/or aspartokinase activity.

25 The dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and/or the aspartokinase activity in *Methylophilus* bacteria can be enhanced by ligating a gene fragment coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase and/or a gene fragment coding for aspartokinase with a vector that functions in

Methylophilus bacteria, preferably a multiple copy type vector, to create a recombinant DNA, and introducing them into a *Methylophilus* bacterium host to transform the host. As a result of the increase in the copy numbers of the gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase and/or the gene coding for aspartokinase in cells of the transformant strain, the activity or activities thereof is/are enhanced. Hereafter, dihydrodipicolinate synthase, aspartokinase and aspartokinase III are also referred with abbreviations of DDPS, AK and AKIII, respectively.

As a microorganism providing a gene that codes for DDPS and a gene that codes for AK, any microorganisms can be used so long as they have genes enabling expression of DDPS activity and AK activity in microorganisms belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*. Such microorganisms may be wild strains or mutant strains derived therefrom. Specifically, examples of such microorganisms include *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*) K-12 strain, *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) and so forth. Since nucleotide sequences of a gene coding for DDPS (*dapA*, Richaud, F. et al., J. Bacteriol., 297, (1986)) and a gene coding for AKIII (*lysC*, Cassan, M., Parsot, C., Cohen, G.N. and Patte, J.C., J. Biol. Chem., 261, 1052 (1986)) derived from *Escherichia* bacteria have been both revealed, these genes can be obtained by PCR using primers synthesized based on the nucleotide sequences of these genes and chromosome DNA of microorganism such as *E. coli* K-12 or

the like as a template. As specific examples, *dapA* and *lysC* derived from *E. coli* will be explained below. However, genes used for the present invention are not limited to them.

5 It is preferred that DDPS and AK used for the present invention do not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine. It has been known that wild-type DDPS derived from *E. coli* suffers feedback inhibition by L-lysine, and that wild-type AKIII derived from *E. coli* suffers suppression and feedback inhibition by L-lysine.
10 Therefore, *dapA* and *lysC* to be introduced into *Methylophilus* bacteria preferably code for DDPS and AKIII having a mutation that desensitizes the feedback inhibition by L-lysine. Hereafter, DDPS having a
15 mutation that desensitizes the feedback inhibition by L-lysine is also referred to as "mutant DDPS", and DNA coding for the mutant DDPS is also referred to as "mutant *dapA*". AKIII derived from *E. coli* having a mutation that desensitizes the feedback inhibition by L-
20 lysine is also referred to as "mutant AKIII", and DNA coding for the mutant AKIII is also referred to as "mutant *lysC*".

 According to the present invention, DDPS and AK are not necessarily required to be a mutant. It has
25 been known that, for example, DDPS derived from *Corynebacterium* bacteria originally does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine.

 A nucleotide sequence of wild-type *dapA* derived from *E. coli* is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 1. The amino

acid sequence of wild-type DDPS coded by said nucleotide sequence is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 2. A nucleotide sequence of wild-type *lycC* derived from *E. coli* is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 3. The amino acid sequence of wild-type ATIII coded by said nucleotide sequence is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 4.

The DNA coding for mutant DDPS that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine includes a DNA coding for DDPS having the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 wherein the 118-histidine residue is replaced with a tyrosine residue. The DNA coding for mutant AKIII that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine includes a DNA coding for AKIII having an amino sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 wherein the 352-threonine residue is replaced with an isoleucine residue.

The plasmid used for gene cloning may be any plasmid so long as it can replicate in microorganisms such as *Escherichia* bacteria or the like, and specifically include pBR322, pTWV228, pMW119, pUC19 and so forth.

The vector that functions in *Methylophilus* bacteria is, for example, a plasmid that can autonomously replicate in *Methylophilus* bacteria. Specifically, there can be mentioned RSF1010, which is a broad host spectrum vector, and derivatives thereof, for example, pAYC32 (Chistorerdov, A.Y., Tsygankov, Y.D. Plasmid, 16, 161-167, (1986)), pMFY42 (Gene, 44, 53, (1990)), pRP301, pTB70 (Nature, 287, 396, (1980)) and so forth.

In order to prepare a recombinant DNA by ligating *dapA* and *lysC* to a vector that functions in *Methylophilus* bacteria, the vector is digested with a restriction enzyme that corresponds to the terminus of DNA fragment containing *dapA* and *lysC*. Ligation is usually performed by using ligase such as T4 DNA ligase. *dapA* and *lysC* may be individually incorporated into separate vectors or into a single vector.

As a plasmid containing a mutant *dapA* coding for mutant DDPS and a mutant *lysC* coding for mutant AKIII, a broad host spectrum plasmid RSFD80 has been known (WO95/16042). *E. coli* JM109 strain transformed with this plasmid was designated as AJ12396, and deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on October 28, 1993 and received an accession number of FERM P-13936, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on November 1, 1994, and received an accession number of FERM BP-4859. RSFD80 can be obtained from the AJ12396 strain in a known manner.

The mutant *dapA* contained in RSFD80 has a nucleotide sequence of wild-type *dapA* of SEQ ID NO: 1 including replacement of C at the nucleotide number 597 with T. The mutant DDPS encoded thereby has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 including replacement of the 118-histidine residue with a tyrosine residue. The

mutant *lysC* contained in RSFD80 has a nucleotide sequence of wild-type *lysC* of SEQ ID NO: 3 including replacement of C at the nucleotide number 1638 with T. The mutant AKIII encoded thereby has an amino acid
5 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 including replacement of the 352-threonine residue with an isoleucine residue.

In order to introduce a recombinant DNA prepared as described above into *Methylophilus* bacteria, any method can be used so long as it provides sufficient
10 transformation efficiency. For example, electroporation can be used (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43, 197 (1997)).

The DDPS activity and/or the AK activity can also be enhanced by the presence of multiple copies of *dapA* and/or *lysC* on chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus* bacteria.
15 In order to introduce multiple copies of *dapA* and/or *lysC* into chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus* bacteria, homologous recombination is performed by using, as a target, a sequence that is present on chromosome DNA of
20 *Methylophilus* bacteria in a multiple copy number. As the sequence present on chromosome DNA in the multiple copy number, a repetitive DNA, inverted repeats present at the end of a transposable element, or the like can be used. Alternatively, as disclosed in Japanese Patent
25 Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 2-109985/1990, multiple copies of *dapA* and/or *lysC* can be introduced into chromosome DNA by mounting them on a transposon to transfer them. In both of the methods, as a result of increased copy number of *dapA* and/or *lysC* in transformed

strains, the DDPS activity and the AK activity should be amplified.

Besides the above gene amplification, the DDPS activity and/or the AK activity can be amplified by replacing an expression control sequence such as promoters of *dapA* and/or *lysC* with stronger ones (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 1-215280/1989). As such strong promoters, there have been known, for example, *lac* promoter, *trp* promoter, *trc* promoter, *tac* promoter, P_R promoter and P_L promoter of lambda phage, *tet* promoter, *amyE* promoter, *spac* promoter and so forth. Substitution of these promoters enhances expression of *dapA* and/or *lysC*, and thus the DDPS activity and the AK activity are amplified. Enhancement of expression control sequences can be combined with increase of the copy numbers of *dapA* and/or *lysC*.

In order to prepare a recombinant DNA by ligating a gene fragment and a vector, the vector is digested with a restriction enzyme corresponding to the terminus of the gene fragment. Ligation is usually performed by ligase such as T4 DNA ligase. As methods for digestion, ligation and others of DNA, preparation of chromosome DNA, PCR, preparation of plasmid DNA, transformation, design of oligonucleotides used as primers and so forth, usual methods well known to those skilled in the art can be used. Such methods are described in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F., and Maniatis, T., "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, (1989) and so forth.

In addition to the enhancement of the DDPS activity and/or the AK activity, activity of another enzyme involved in the L-lysine biosynthesis may also be enhanced. Such enzymes include diaminopimelate pathway enzymes such as dihydrodipicolinate reductase, diaminopimelate decarboxylase, diaminopimelate dehydrogenase (WO96/40934 for all of the foregoing enzymes), phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 60-87788/1985), aspartate aminotransferase (Japanese Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 6-102028/1994), diaminopimelate epimerase, aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase and so forth, or aminoadipate pathway enzymes such as homoaconitate hydratase and so forth. Preferably, activity of at least one enzyme of aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is enhanced.

Aspartokinase, aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate synthase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* will be described later.

Further, the microorganisms of the present invention may be decreased in activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction for generating a compound other than L-lysine by branching off from the biosynthetic pathway of L-lysine, or may be deficient in such an enzyme. The enzyme that catalyzes the reaction for generating the compound other than L-lysine by branching

off from the biosynthetic pathway L-lysine include
homoserine dehydrogenase (see WO95/23864).

The aforementioned techniques for enhancing
activity of an enzyme involved in the L-lysine
5 biosynthesis can be similarly used for other amino acids
mentioned below.

[L-Glutamic acid]

L-Glutamic acid-producing ability can be imparted
10 to *Methylophilus* bacteria by, for example, introducing a
DNA that codes for any one of enzymes including
glutamate dehydrogenase (Japanese Patent Application
Laid-open (Kokai) 61-268185/1986), glutamine synthetase,
glutamate synthase, isocitrate dehydrogenase (Japanese
15 Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 62-166890/1987
and 63-214189/1988), aconitate hydratase (Japanese
Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 62-294086/1987),
citrate synthase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open
(Kokai) Nos. 62-201585/1987 and 63-119688/1988),
20 phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (Japanese Patent
Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 60-87788/1985 and 62-
55089/1987), pyruvate dehydrogenase, pyruvate kinase,
phosphoenolpyruvate synthase, enolase,
phosphoglyceromutase, phosphoglycerate kinase,
25 glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, triose
phosphate isomerase, fructose bisphosphate aldolase,
phosphofructokinase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-
open (Kokai) No. 63-102692/1988), glucose phosphate
isomerase, glutamine-oxoglutarate aminotransferase

(WO99/07853) and so forth.

Further, the microorganisms of the present invention may be decreased in activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction for generating a compound other than L-glutamic acid by branching off from the biosynthetic pathway of L-glutamic acid, or may be deficient in such an enzyme. The enzyme that catalyzes the reaction for generating the compound other than L-glutamic acid by branching off from the biosynthetic pathway L-glutamic acid include α -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase (α KGDH), isocitrate lyase, phosphate acetyltransferase, acetate kinase, acetohydroxy acid synthase, acetolactate synthase, formate acetyltransferase, lactate dehydrogenase, glutamate decarboxylase, 1-pyrroline dehydrogenase and so forth.

[L-Threonine]

L-Threonine-producing ability can be imparted or enhanced by, for example, enhancing activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase. The activities of these enzymes can be enhanced by, for example, transforming *Methylophilus* bacteria using a recombinant plasmid containing a threonine operon (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 55-131397/1980, 59-31691/1984 and 56-15696/1981 and Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991).

The production ability can also be imparted or enhanced by amplifying or introducing a threonine operon

having a gene coding for aspartokinase of which feedback inhibition by L-threonine is desensitized (Japanese Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 1-29559/1989), a gene coding for homoserine dehydrogenase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 60-012995/1985) or a gene coding for homoserine kinase and homoserine dehydrogenase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 61-195695/1986).

Further, L-threonine-producing ability can be improved by introducing a DNA coding for a mutant phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase having a mutation for desensitizing feedback inhibition by aspartic acid.

[L-Valine]

L-Valine-producing ability can be imparted by, for example, introducing into *Methylophilus* bacteria an L-valine biosynthesis gene whose control mechanism has been substantially desensitized. There may also be introduced a mutation that substantially desensitizes a control mechanism of an L-valine biosynthesis gene carried by a microorganism belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*.

Examples of the L-valine biosynthesis gene include, for example, the *ilvGMEDA* operon of *E. coli*. Threonine deaminase encoded by an *ilvA* gene catalyzes the deamination reaction converting L-threonine into 2-ketobutyric acid, which is the rate-determining step of L-isoleucine biosynthesis. Therefore, in order to attain efficient progression of the L-valine synthesis

reactions, it is preferable to use an operon that does not express threonine deaminase activity. Examples of the *ilvGMEDA* operon that does not express such threonine deaminase activity include an *ilvGMEDA* operon wherein a
5 mutation for eliminating threonine deaminase activity is introduced into *ilvA*, or *ilvA* is disrupted, and an *ilvGMED* operon wherein *ilvA* is deleted.

Since the *ilvGMEDA* operon suffers expression control of operon (attenuation) by L-valine and/or L-
10 isoleucine and/or L-leucine, the region required for the attenuation is preferably removed or mutated to desensitize the suppression of expression by L-valine.

An *ilvGMEDA* operon which does not express threonine deaminase activity and in which attenuation is
15 desensitized as described above can be obtained by subjecting a wild-type *ilvGMEDA* operon to a mutagenesis treatment or modifying it by means of gene recombination techniques (see WO96/06926).

20 [L-Leucine]

L-Leucine-producing ability is imparted or enhanced by, for example, introducing into a microorganism belonging to the genus *Methylophilus* an L-leucine biosynthesis gene whose control mechanism has
25 been substantially desensitized, in addition to the above characteristics required for the production of L-valine. It is also possible to introduce such a mutation that the control mechanism of an L-leucine biosynthesis gene in a microorganism belonging to the

genus *Methylophilus* should be substantially eliminated. Examples of such a gene include, for example, an *leuA* gene which provides an enzyme in which inhibition by L-leucine is substantially eliminated.

5

[L-Isoleucine]

L-Isoleucine-producing ability can be imparted by, for example, introducing a *thrABC* operon containing a *thrA* gene coding for aspartokinase I/homoserine
 10 dehydrogenase I derived from *E. coli* wherein inhibition by L-threonine has been substantially desensitized and an *ilvGMEDA* operon which contains an *ilvA* gene coding for threonine deaminase wherein inhibition by L-
 15 isoleucine is substantially desensitized and whose region required for attenuation is removed (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 8-47397/1996).

[Other amino acids]

Biosyntheses of L-tryptophan, L-phenylalanine, L-
 20 tyrosine, L-threonine and L-isoleucine can be enhanced by increasing phosphoenolpyruvate-producing ability of *Methylophilus* bacteria (WO97/08333).

The production abilities for L-phenylalanine and L-tyrosine are improved by amplifying or introducing a
 25 desensitized chorismate mutase-prephenate dehydratase (CM-PDT) gene (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 5-236947/1993 and 62-130693/1987) and a desensitized 3-deoxy-D-arabinoheptulonate-7-phosphate synthase (DS) gene (Japanese Patent Application Laid-

open (Kokai) Nos. 5-236947/1993 and 61-124375/1986).

The producing ability of L-tryptophan is improved by amplifying or introducing a tryptophan operon containing a gene coding for desensitized anthranilate
5 synthase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 57-71397/1982, 62-244382/1987 and US Patent No. 4,371,614).

In the present specification, the expression that enzyme "activity is enhanced" usually refers to that the
10 intracellular activity of the enzyme is higher than that of a wild type strain, and when a strain in which the activity of the enzyme is enhanced is obtained by modification using gene recombinant techniques or the like, the intracellular activity of the enzyme is higher
15 than that of the strain before the modification. The expression that enzyme "activity is decreased" usually refers to that the intracellular activity of the enzyme is lower than that of a wild type strain, and when a strain in which the activity of the enzyme is decreased
20 is obtained by modification using gene recombinant techniques or the like, the intracellular activity of the enzyme is lower than that of the strain before the modification.

L-Amino acids can be produced by culturing
25 *Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability obtained as described above in a medium to produce and accumulate L-amino acids in the culture, and collecting the L-amino acids from the culture.

Bacterial cells of *Methylophilus* bacteria with an

increased L-amino acid content compared with wild strains of *Methylophilus* bacteria can be produced by culturing *Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability in a medium to produce and accumulate
5 L-amino acids in bacterial cells of the bacteria.

Microorganisms used for the present invention can be cultured by methods usually used for culturing microorganisms having methanol-assimilating property. The medium used for the present invention may be a
10 natural or synthetic medium so long as it contains a carbon source, a nitrogen source, inorganic ions and other trace amount organic constituents as required.

By using methanol as a main carbon source, L-amino acids can be prepared at a low cost. When methanol is
15 used as a main carbon source, it is usually added to a medium in an amount of 0.001 to 30%. As the nitrogen source, ammonium sulfate or the like is used by adding it to the medium. Other than these, there are usually added small amounts of the trace amount constituents
20 such as potassium phosphate, sodium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, ferrous sulfate and manganese sulfate.

The culture is usually performed under an aerobic condition obtained by, for example, shaking or stirring for aeration, at pH 5 to 9 and a temperature of 20 to
25 45°C, and it is usually completed within 24 to 120 hours.

Collection of L-amino acids from culture can be usually attained by a combination of known methods such as those using ion exchange resin, precipitation and others.

Further, *Methylophilus* bacterium cells can be separated from the medium by usual methods for separating microbial cells.

5 <2> Gene of the present invention

The DNA of the present invention is a gene which codes for one of the enzymes, aspartokinase (henceforth also abbreviated as "AK"), aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase (henceforth also abbreviated as "ASD"),
10 dihydrodipicolinate synthase (henceforth also abbreviated as "DDPS"), dihydrodipicolinate reductase (henceforth also abbreviated as "DDPR"), and diaminopimelate decarboxylase (henceforth also abbreviated as "DPDC") derived from *Methylophilus*
15 *methylophilus*.

The DNA of the present invention can be obtained by, for example, transforming a mutant strain of a microorganism deficient in AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC using a gene library of *Methylophilus methylophilus*,
20 and selecting a clone in which auxotrophy is recovered.

A gene library of *Methylophilus methylophilus* can be produced as follows, for example. First, total chromosome DNA is prepared from a *Methylophilus methylophilus* wild strain, for example, the
25 *Methylophilus methylophilus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515), by the method of Saito et al. (Saito, H. and Miura, K., Biochem. Biophys. Acta 72, 619-629, (1963)) or the like, and partially digested with a suitable restriction enzyme, for example, *Sau3AI* or *AluI*, to obtain a mixture

of various fragments. By controlling the degree of the digestion through adjustment of digestion reaction time and so forth, a wide range of restriction enzymes can be used.

5 Subsequently, the digested chromosome DNA fragments are ligated to vector DNA autonomously replicable in *Escherichia coli* cells to produce recombinant DNA. Specifically, a restriction enzyme producing the same terminal nucleotide sequence as that
10 produced by the restriction enzyme used for the digestion of chromosome DNA is allowed to act on the vector DNA to fully digest and cleave the vector. Then, the mixture of chromosome DNA fragments and the digested and cleaved vector DNA are mixed, and a ligase,
15 preferably T4 DNA ligase, is allowed to act on the mixture to obtain recombinant DNA.

 A gene library solution can be obtained by transforming *Escherichia coli*, for example, the *Escherichia coli* JM109 strain or the like, using the
20 obtained recombinant DNA, and preparing recombinant DNA from the culture broth of the transformant. This transformation can be performed by the method of D.M. Morrison (Methods in Enzymology 68, 326 (1979)), the method of treating recipient cells with calcium chloride
25 so as to increase the permeability of DNA (Mandel, M. and Higa, A., J. Mol. Biol., 53, 159 (1970)) and so forth. In the examples mentioned hereinafter, electroporation was used.

 As examples of the aforementioned vector, there

can be mentioned pUC19, pUC18, pUC118, pUC119, pBR322, pHSG299, pHSG298, pHSG399, pHSG398, RSF1010, pMW119, pMW118, pMW219, pMW218, pSTV28, pSTV29 and so forth. Phage vectors can also be used. Since pUC118 and pUC119
 5 contain an ampicillin resistance gene, and pSTV28 and pSTV29 contain a chloramphenicol resistance gene, for example, only transformants which harbor a vector or a recombinant DNA can be grown by using a medium containing ampicillin or chloramphenicol.

10 As the method for culturing the transformants and collecting recombinant DNA from bacterial cells, the alkali SDS method and the like can be mentioned.

A mutant microbial strain deficient in AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC is transformed by using the gene
 15 library solution of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* obtained as described above, and clones whose auxotrophy is recovered are selected.

Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in AK include *E. coli* GT3 deficient in three kinds of genes
 20 coding for AK (*thrA*, *metLM*, *lysC*). Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in ASD include *E. coli* Hfr3000 U482 (CGSC 5081 strain). Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in DDPS include *E. coli* AT997 (CGSC 4547 strain). Examples of a mutant microbial
 25 strain deficient in DDPR include *E. coli* AT999 (CGSC 4549 strain). Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in DPDC include *E. coli* AT2453 (CGSC 4505 strain). These mutant strains can be obtained from *E. coli* Genetic Stock Center (the Yale University,

Department of Biology, Osborn Memorial Labs., P.O. Box 6666, New Haven 06511-7444, Connecticut, U.S.).

Although all of the aforementioned mutant strains cannot grow in M9 minimal medium, transformant strains which contain a gene coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC can grow in M9 minimal medium because these genes function in the transformants. Therefore, by selecting transformant strains that can grow in the minimal medium and collecting recombinant DNA from the strains, DNA fragments containing a gene that codes for each enzyme can be obtained. *E. coli* AT999 (CGSC 4549 strain) shows extremely slow growth rate even in a complete medium such as L medium when diaminopimelic acid is not added to the medium. However, normal growth can be observed for its transformant strains which contain a gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus*, because of the function of the gene. Therefore, a transformant strain that contains a gene coding for DDPR can also be obtained by selecting a transformant strain normally grown in L medium.

By extracting an insert DNA fragment from the obtained recombinant DNA and determining its nucleotide sequence, an amino acid sequence of each enzyme and nucleotide sequence of the gene coding for it can be determined.

The gene coding for AK of the present invention (henceforth also referred to "ask") codes for AK which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the ask gene,

there can be mentioned a DNA having the nucleotide sequence which consists of nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 5. The *ask* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

The gene which codes for ASD of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*asd*") codes for ASD which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *asd* gene, a DNA which contains the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 98-1207 in SEQ ID NO: 7 can be mentioned. The *asd* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

The gene which codes for DDPS of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*dapA*") codes for DDPS which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *dapA* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 1268-2155 in SEQ ID NO: 9 can be mentioned. The *dapA* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for

the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

The gene which codes for DDBR of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*dapB*") codes
5 for DDBR which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *dapB* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 in SEQ ID NO: 11 can be mentioned. The *dapB*
10 gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

15 The gene which codes for DPDC of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*lysA*") codes for DPDC which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *lysA* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence
20 consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 751-1995 in SEQ ID NO: 13 can be mentioned. The *lysA* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for
25 the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14.

The gene for each enzyme of the present invention may have an amino acid sequence corresponding to each amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, 8, 10, 12 or 14

including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and may code a protein having activity of AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC. The expression "one or several" used herein preferably
5 means a number of 1 to 10, more preferably a number of 1 to 5, more preferably a number of 1 to 2.

The DNA which codes for the substantially same protein as AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC such as those mentioned above can be obtained by modifying each
10 nucleotide sequence so that the amino acid sequence should contain substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of an amino acid residue or residues at a particular site by, for example, site-specific mutagenesis. Such a modified DNA as mentioned
15 above may also be obtained by a conventional mutagenesis treatment. Examples of the mutagenesis treatment include in vitro treatment of DNA coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC with hydroxylamine or the like, treatment of a microorganism such as *Escherichia*
20 bacteria containing a gene coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC by UV irradiation or with mutagenesis agents used for usual mutagenesis treatment such as N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (NTG) and nitrous acid.

25 The aforementioned substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of nucleotides includes naturally occurring mutations (mutant or variant) such as those observed depending difference between species or strains of microorganisms containing AK, ASD, DDPS,

DDPR or DPDC and so forth.

The DNA which codes for substantially the same protein as AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC can be obtained by allowing expression of a DNA having such a mutation
5 as mentioned above in a suitable cell, and examining AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC activity of the expression product. The DNA which codes for substantially the same protein as AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC can also be obtained by isolating, from DNAs coding for AK, ASD,
10 DDPS, DDPR or DPDC which have mutations or cells containing each of them, a DNA hybridizable with a probe containing a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510-1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5, a nucleotide sequence comprising the
15 nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98-1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7, a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268-2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9, a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883
20 of SEQ ID NO: 11, or a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751-1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13, or a part of those nucleotide sequences under a stringent condition, and coding for a protein having AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC activity. In
25 the present specification, to have a nucleotide sequence or a part thereof means to have the nucleotide sequence or the part thereof, or a nucleotide complementary thereto.

The term "stringent condition" used herein means a

condition that allows formation of so-called specific hybrid and does not allow formation of non-specific hybrid. This condition may vary depending on the nucleotide sequence and length of the probe. However, 5 it may be, for example, a condition that allows hybridization of highly homologous DNA such as DNA having homology of 40% or higher, but does not allow hybridization of DNA of lower homology than defined above, or a condition that allows hybridization under a 10 washing condition of usual Southern hybridization, of a temperature of 60°C and salt concentrations corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, preferably 0.1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

A partial sequence of each gene can also be used 15 as the probe. Such a probe can be produced by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) using oligonucleotides produced based on a nucleotide sequence of each gene as primers and a DNA fragment containing each gene as a template. When a DNA fragment having a length of about 20 300 bp is used as the probe, washing condition for hybridization may be, for example, 50°C, 2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Genes that hybridize under such a condition as mentioned above also include those having a stop codon 25 occurring in its sequence and those encoding an enzyme no longer having its activity due to a mutation of active center. However, such genes can readily be eliminated by ligating the genes to a commercially available activity expression vector, and measuring AK,

ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC activity.

Since the nucleotide sequences of the genes that codes for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR and DPDC derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* were revealed by the present invention, DNA sequences which code for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR and DPDC can be obtained from a *Methylophilus methylotrophus* gene library by hybridization using oligonucleotide probes produced based on the sequences. Moreover, DNA sequences which code for these enzymes can also be obtained by amplifying them from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* chromosome DNA by PCR using oligonucleotide primers produced based on the aforementioned nucleotide sequences.

The aforementioned genes can suitably be utilized to enhance L-lysine-producing ability of *Methylophilus* bacteria.

EXAMPLES

The present invention will further specifically be explained with reference to the following examples hereafter.

The reagents used were obtained from Wako Pure Chemicals or Nakarai Tesque unless otherwise indicated. The compositions of the media used in each example are shown below. pH was adjusted with NaOH or HCl for all media.

(L medium)

Bacto trypton (DIFCO) 10 g/L

Yeast extract (DIFCO) 5 g/L
 NaCl 5 g/L
 [steam-sterilized at 120°C for 20 minutes]

5 (L agar medium)

L medium

Bacto agar (DIFCO) 15 g/L
 [steam-sterilized at 120°C for 20 minutes]

10 (SOC medium)

Bacto trypton (DIFCO) 20 g/L
 Yeast extract (DIFCO) 5 g/L

10 mM NaCl

2.5 mM KCl

15 10 mM MgSO₄

10 mM MgCl₂

20 mM Glucose

[The constituents except for magnesium solution and glucose were steam-sterilized (120°C, 20 minutes), then
 20 2 M magnesium stock solution (1 M MgSO₄, 1 M MgCl₂) and
 2 M glucose solution, which solutions had been passed through a 0.22-μm filter, were added thereto, and the mixture was passed through a 0.22-μm filter again.]

25 (121M1 medium)

K₂HPO₄ 1.2 g/L

KH₂PO₄ 0.62 g/L

NaCl 0.1 g/L

(NH₄)₂SO₄ 0.5 g/L

	MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	0.2 g/L
	CaCl ₂ •6H ₂ O	0.05 g/L
	FeCl ₃ •6H ₂ O	1.0 mg/L
	H ₃ BO ₃	10 µg/L
5	CuSO ₄ •5H ₂ O	5 µg/L
	MnSO ₄ •5H ₂ O	10 µg/L
	ZnSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	70 µg/L
	NaMoO ₄ •2H ₂ O	10 µg/L
	CoCl ₂ •6H ₂ O	5 µg/L
10	Methanol 1% (vol/vol), pH 7.0	
	[The constituents except for methanol were steam-sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. After the constituents sufficiently cooled, methanol was added.]	
15	(Composition of 121 production medium)	
	Methanol	2%
	Dipotassium phosphate	0.12%
	Potassium phosphate	0.062%
	Calcium chloride hexahydrate	0.005%
20	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	0.02%
	Sodium chloride	0.01%
	Ferric chloride hexahydrate	1.0 mg/L
	Ammonium sulfate	0.3%
	Cupric sulfate pentahydrate	5 µg/L
25	Manganous sulfate pentahydrate	10 µg/L
	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	10 µg/L
	Boric acid	10 µg/L
	Zinc sulfate heptahydrate	70 µg/L
	Cobaltous chloride hexahydrate	5 µg/L

Calcium carbonate (Kanto Kagaku) 3%
(pH 7.0)

(121M1 Agar medium)

5 121M1 medium

Bacto agar (DIFCO) 15 g/L

[The constituents except for methanol were steam-sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. After the constituents sufficiently cooled, methanol was added.]

10

(M9 minimal medium)

$\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 16 g/L

KH_2PO_4 3 g/L

NaCl 0.5 g/L

15 NH_4Cl 1 g/L

$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 246.48 mg/L

Glucose 2 g/L

pH 7.0

[MgSO_4 and glucose were separately sterilized (120°C, 20 minutes) and added. A suitable amount of amino acids and vitamins were added as required.]

(M9 minimal agar medium)

M9 minimal medium

25 Bacto agar (DIFCO) 15 g/L

Example 1

Creation of L-lysine-producing bacterium (1)

(1) Introduction of mutant *lysc* and mutant *dapA* into

Methylophilus bacterium

A mutant *lysC* and a mutant *dapA* were introduced into a *Methylophilus* bacterium by using a known plasmid RSFD80 (see WO95/16042) containing them. RSFD80 is a
5 plasmid pVIC40 (International Publication WO90/04636, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991) derived from a broad host spectrum vector plasmid pAYC32 (Chistorerdov, A.Y., Tsygankov, Y.D., Plasmid, 16, 161-167, (1986)), which is a derivative of
10 RSF1010, in which a mutant *dapA* and a mutant *lysC* derived from *E. coli* are located in this order downstream of the promoter (tetP) of the tetracycline resistance gene of pVIC40 so that the transcription directions of the genes are ordinary with respect to
15 tetP. The mutant *dapA* coded for a mutant DDPS in which the 118-histidine residue was replaced with a tyrosine residue. The mutant *lysC* coded for a mutant AKIII in which the 352-threonine residue was replaced with an isoleucine residue.

20 RSFD80 was constructed as follows. The mutant *dapA* on a plasmid pdapAS24 was ligated to pVIC40 at a position downstream of the promoter of the tetracycline resistance gene to obtain RSF24P as shown in Fig. 1. Then, the plasmid RSFD80 which had the mutant *dapA* and a
25 mutant *lysC* was prepared from RSF24P and pLLC*80 containing the mutant *lysC* as shown in Fig. 2. That is, while pVIC40 contains a threonine operon, this threonine operon is replaced with a DNA fragment containing the mutant *dapA* and a DNA fragment containing the mutant

lysC in RSFD80.

The *E. coli* JM109 strain transformed with the RSFD80 plasmid was designated as AJ12396, and deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on October 28, 1993 and received an accession number of FERM P-13936, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on November 1, 1994, and received an accession number of FERM BP-4859.

The *E. coli* AJ1239 strain was cultured in 30 ml of LB medium containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin at 30°C for 12 hours, and the RSFD80 plasmid was purified from the obtained cells by using Wizard® Plus Midipreps DNA Purification System (sold by Promega).

The RSFD80 plasmid produced as described above was introduced into the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) by electroporation (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43, 197 (1997)). As a control, a DNA region coding for the threonine operon was deleted from the pVIC40 plasmid used for producing the RSFD80 plasmid to produce a pRS plasmid comprising only the vector region (see Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991), and the pRS plasmid was introduced into the AS1 strain in the same manner as that used for RSFD80.

(2) AKIII Activity of *Methylophilus* bacterium containing mutant *lysC* and mutant *dapA* derived from *E. coli*

Cell-free extracts were prepared from the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain containing the RSFD80 plasmid (also referred to as "AS1/RSFD80" hereinafter) and the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain containing the pRS plasmid (also referred to as "AS1/pRS" hereinafter), and AK activity was measured. The cell-free extracts (crude enzyme solutions) were prepared as follows. The AS1/RSFD80 strain and AS1/pRS strain were each inoculated to 121 production medium of the above composition containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin, cultured at 37°C for 34 hours with shaking, and then calcium carbonate was removed and cells were harvested.

The bacterial cells obtained as described above were washed with 0.2% KCl under a condition of 0°C, suspended in 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7) containing 10 mM MgSO₄, 0.8 M (NH₄)₂SO₄ and 0.03 M β-mercaptoethanol, and disrupted by sonication (0°C, 200 W, 10 minutes). The sonicated cell suspension was centrifuged at 33,000 rpm for 30 minutes under a condition of 0°C, and the supernatant was separated. To the supernatant, ammonium sulfate was added to 80% saturation, and the mixture was left at 0°C for 1 hour, and centrifuged. The pellet was dissolved in 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7) containing 10 mM MgSO₄, 0.8 M (NH₄)₂SO₄ and 0.03 M β-mercaptoethanol.

The measurement of AK activity was performed in accordance with the method of Stadtman (Stadtman, E.R.,

Cohen, G.N., LeBras, G., and Robichon-Szulmajster, H., J. Biol. Chem., 236, 2033 (1961)). That is, a reaction solution of the following composition was incubated at 30°C for 45 minutes, and color development was caused by adding a FeCl₃ solution (2.8 N HCl: 0.4 ml, 12% TCA: 0.4 ml, 5% FeCl₃•6H₂O/0.1 N HCl: 0.7 ml). The reaction solution was centrifuged, and absorbance of the supernatant was measured at 540 nm. The activity was represented in terms of the amount of hydroxamic acid produced in 1 minute (1 U = 1 μmol/minute). The molar extinction coefficient was set to be 600. The reaction solution not containing potassium aspartate was used as a blank. When the enzymatic activity was measured, L-lysine was added to the enzymatic reaction solution at various concentrations to examine degree of inhibition by L-lysine. The results are shown in Table 1.

(Composition of reaction solution)

	Reaction mixture * ¹	0.3 ml
20	Hydroxylamine solution * ²	0.2 ml
	0.1 M Potassium aspartate (pH 7.0)	0.2 ml
	Enzyme solution	0.1 ml
	Water (balance)	Total 1 ml
	*1: 1 M Tris-HCl (pH 8.1): 9 ml, 0.3 M MgSO ₄ : 0.5 ml and	
25	0.2 M ATP (pH 7.0): 5 ml	
	*2: 8 M Hydroxylamine solution neutralized with KOH immediately before use	

Table 1

Strain	AK activity (Specific activity ^{*1})	Specific activity with 5 mM L-lysine	Desensitization degree of inhibition ^{*2} (%)
AS1/pRS	7.93	9.07	114
AS1/RSFD80	13.36	15.33	115

*1: nmol/minute/mg protein

*2: Activity retention ratio in the presence of 5 mM L-lysine

5

As shown in Table 1, AK activity was increased by about 1.7 times by the introduction of the RSFD80 plasmid. Further, it was confirmed that the inhibition by L-lysine was completely desensitized in AK derived from *E. coli* that was encoded by the RSFD80 plasmid. Moreover, it was found that AK that was originally retained by the AS1 strain was not inhibited by L-lysine alone. The inventors of the present invention have discovered that the AK derived from the AS1 strain was inhibited by 100% when 2 mM for each of L-lysine and L-threonine were present in the reaction solution (concerted inhibition).

(3) Production of L-lysine by *Methylophilus* bacterium containing mutant *lysC* and mutant *dapA* derived from *E. coli*

Then, the AS1/RSFD80 strain and the AS1/pRS strain were inoculated to 121 production medium containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin, and cultured at 37°C for 34 hours with shaking. After the culture was completed, the bacterial cells and calcium carbonate were removed by centrifugation, and L-lysine concentration in the

culture supernatant was measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation [Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography). The results are shown in Table 2.

5

Table 2

Strain	Production amount of L-lysine hydrochloride (g/L)
AS1/pRS	0
AS1/RSFD80	0.3

Example 2

Creation of L-lysine-producing bacterium (2)

- 10 (1) Introduction of *tac* promoter region into broad host spectrum vector

In order to produce a large amount of enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of L-lysine (Lys) in *Methylophilus methylotrophus*, *tac* promoter was used for
15 gene expression of the target enzyme. The promoter is frequently used in *E. coli*.

The *tac* promoter region was obtained by amplification through PCR using DNA of pKK233-3 (Pharmacia) as a template, DNA fragments having the
20 nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 15 and 16 as primers, and a heat-resistant DNA polymerase. The PCR was performed with a cycle of 94°C for 20 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 60 seconds, which was repeated 30 times. Then, the amplified DNA fragment was
25 collected and treated with restriction enzymes *EcoRI* and *PstI*. On the other hand, a broad host spectrum vector

pRS (see Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991) was also digested with the same restriction enzymes, and the aforementioned DNA fragment which contained the *tac* promoter region was introduced into the restriction enzyme digestion termini to construct pRS-tac.

(2) Preparation of *dapA* gene (dihydrodipicolinate synthase gene) expression plasmid pRS-dapA24 and *lysC* gene (aspartokinase gene) expression plasmid pRS-lysC80

A mutant gene (*dapA*24*) coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase whose feedback inhibition for the enzyme activity by Lys was partially desensitized was introduced into the plasmid pRS-tac which was prepared by the method described in the above (1).

First, the *dapA*24* gene region was obtained by amplification through PCR using DNA of RSFD80 (see Example 1) as a template, and DNA fragments having the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 17 and 18 as primers. The PCR was performed with a cycle of 94°C for 20 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 90 seconds, which was repeated 30 times. Then, the fragment was treated with restriction enzymes *Sse8387I* and *XbaI* to prepare a *dapA*24* gene fragment having corresponding cleaved termini. On the other hand, pRS-tac was also treated with *Sse8387I* and partially digested with *XbaI* in the same manner as described above. To this digested plasmid, the aforementioned *dapA*24* gene fragment was

ligated by using T4 ligase to obtain pRS-dapA24.

Similarly, a gene (*lysC*80*) coding for aspartokinase whose feedback inhibition for the enzyme activity by Lys was partially desensitized was obtained by PCR using DNA of RSFD80 as a template, and DNA fragments having the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 19 and 20 as primers. The PCR was performed with a cycle of 94°C for 20 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 90 seconds, which was repeated 30 times. Then, the obtained DNA fragment was treated with restriction enzymes *Sse8387I* and *SapI*. On the other hand, the vector pRS-tac was also treated with *Sse8387I* and *SapI*. To this digested plasmid, the aforementioned *lysC*80* gene fragment was ligated by using T4 ligase to obtain pRS-*lysC80*.

(3) Introduction of pRS-dapA24 or pRS-*lysC80* into *Methylophilus methylotrophus* and evaluation of culture

Each of pRS-dapA24 and pRS-*lysC80* obtained as described above was introduced into the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) by electroporation to obtain AS1/pRS-dapA24 and AS1/pRS-*lysC80*, respectively. Each strain was inoculated to 121 production medium containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin, and cultured at 37°C for 48 hours with shaking. As a control strain, AS1 strain harboring pRS was also cultured in a similar manner. After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium carbonate were removed by centrifugation, and L-lysine concentration in the

culture supernatant was measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation [Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography). The results are shown in Table 3.

5

Table 3

Strain	Production amount of L-lysine hydrochloride (g/L)
AS1/pRS	<0.01
AS1/pRS-lysC80	0.06
AS1/pRS-dapA24	0.13

Example 3

Creation of L-lysine-producing bacterium (3)

10 The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) was inoculated to 121M1 medium and cultured at 37°C for 15 hours. The obtained bacterial cells were treated with NTG in a conventional manner (NTG concentration: 100 mg/L, 37°C, 5 minutes), and spread
15 onto 121M1 agar medium containing 7 g/L of S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine (AEC) and 3 g/L of L-threonine. The cells were cultured at 37°C for 2 to 8 days, and the formed colonies were picked up to obtain AEC-resistant strains.

20 The aforementioned AEC-resistant strains were inoculated to 121 production medium, and cultured at 37°C for 38 hours under an aerobic condition. After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium carbonate were removed from the medium by centrifugation, and L-
25 lysine concentration in the culture supernatant was measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation

[Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography).

A strain showing improved L-lysine-producing ability compared with the parent strain was selected, and designated as *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AR-166 strain.

- 5 The L-lysine production amounts of the parent strain (AS1 strain) and the AR-166 strain are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Strain	Production amount of L-lysine hydrochloride (mg/L)
AS1	5.8
AR-166	80

- 10 The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AR-166 strain was given a private number of AJ13608, and was deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 15 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on June 10, 1999 and received an accession number of FERM P-17416, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on March 31, 2000, and received an accession number of 20 FERM BP-7112.

Example 4

Creation of L-threonine-producing bacterium

- (1) Introduction of threonine operon plasmid into
25 *Methylophilus* bacterium

A plasmid pVIC40 (International Publication

WO90/04636, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open
(Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991) containing a threonine operon
derived from *E. coli* was introduced into the
Methylophilus methylotrophus AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) by
5 electroporation (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43,
197 (1997)) to obtain AS1/pVIC40 strain. As a control,
pRS (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No.
3-501682/1991) having only the vector region was
obtained by deleting the DNA region coding for the
10 threonine operon from the pVIC40 plasmid, and it was
introduced into the AS1 strain in the same manner as
used for pVIC40 to obtain AS1/pRS strain.

(2) Production of L-threonine by *Methylophilus* bacterium
15 containing threonine operon derived from *E. coli*

Each of the AS1/pVIC40 and AS1/pRS strains was
inoculated to 121 production medium containing 20 mg/L
of streptomycin, 1 g/l of L-valine and 1 g/l of L-
leucine, and cultured at 37°C for 50 hours with shaking.
20 After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium
carbonate were removed by centrifugation, and L-
threonine concentration in the culture supernatant was
measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation
[Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography).
25 The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

Strain	Production amount of L-threonine (mg/L)
AS1/pRS	15
AS1/pVIC40	30

Example 5

Creation of branched chain amino acid-producing

5 bacterium

The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) was inoculated to 121Ml medium and cultured at 37°C for 15 hours. The obtained bacterial cells were treated with NTG in a conventional manner (NTG concentration: 100 mg/L, 37°C, 5 minutes), and spread onto 121Ml agar medium containing 0.5% of casamino acid (DIFCO). The cells were cultured at 37°C for 2 to 8 days, and allowed to form colonies. The formed colonies were picked up, and inoculated to 121Ml agar medium and 121Ml agar medium containing 0.5% of casamino acid. Strains exhibiting better growth on the latter medium compared with on the former medium were selected as casamino acid auxotrophic strains. In this way, 9 leaky casamino acid auxotrophic strains were obtained from NTG-treated 500 strains. From these casamino acid auxotrophic strains, one strain that accumulated more L-valine, L-leucine and L-isoleucine in the medium compared with its parent strain was obtained. This strain was designated as *Methylophilus methylotrophus* C138 strain.

The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* C138 strain was

given a private number of AJ13609, and was deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 5 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on June 10, 1999 and received an accession number of FERM P-17417, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on March 31, 2000, and received an accession number of 10 FERM BP-7113.

The parent strain (AS1 strain) and the C138 strain were inoculated to 121 production medium, and cultured at 37°C for 34 hours under an aerobic condition. After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium 15 carbonate were removed from the medium by centrifugation, and concentrations of L-valine, L-leucine and L-isoleucine in the culture supernatant were measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation [Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography). The results 20 are shown in Table 6.

Table 6

Strain	L-valine (mg/L)	L-leucine (mg/L)	L-isoleucine (mg/L)
AS1	7.5	5.0	2.7
C138	330	166	249

Example 6

25 Preparation of chromosome DNA library of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain

(1) Preparation of chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain

One platinum loop of the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) was inoculated to 5 ml of 121M1 medium in a test tube, and cultured at 37°C overnight with shaking. The obtained culture broth was inoculated to 50 ml of 121M1 medium in a 500 ml-volume Sakaguchi flask in an amount of 1%, and cultured at 37°C overnight with shaking. Then, the cells were harvested by centrifugation, and suspended in 50 ml of TEN solution (solution containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 10 mM EDTA and 20 mM NaCl (pH 8.0)). The cells were collected by centrifugation, and suspended again in 5 ml of the TEN solution containing 5 mg/ml of lysozyme and 10 µg/ml of RNase A. The suspension was maintained at 37°C for 30 minutes, and then proteinase K and sodium laurylsulfate were added thereto to final concentrations of 10 µg/ml and 0.5% (wt/vol), respectively.

The suspension was maintained at 70°C for 2 hours, and then an equal amount of a saturated solution of phenol (phenol solution saturated with 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0)) was added and mixed. The suspension was centrifuged, and the supernatant was collected. An equal amount of phenol/chloroform solution (phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol = 25:24:1) was added and mixed, and the mixture was centrifuged. The supernatant was collected, and an equal amount of chloroform solution (chloroform:isoamyl alcohol = 24:1) was added thereto to repeat the same extraction

procedure. To the supernatant, a 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 4.8) and 2.5-fold volume of ethanol were added to precipitate chromosome DNA. The precipitates were collected by centrifugation, washed
5 with 70% ethanol, dried under reduced pressure, and dissolved in a suitable amount of TE solution (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA (pH 8.0)).

(2) Preparation of gene library

10 A 50 μ l portion of the chromosome DNA (1 μ g/ μ l) obtained in the above (1), 20 μ l of H buffer (500 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM dithiothreitol, 1000 mM NaCl (pH 7.5)) and 8 units of a restriction enzyme
15 Sau3AI (Takara Shuzo) were allowed to react at 37°C for 10 minutes in a total volume of 200 μ l, and then 200 μ l of the phenol/chloroform solution was added and mixed to stop the reaction. The reaction mixture was centrifuged, and the upper layer was collected and separated on a 0.8% agarose gel. DNA corresponding to 2 to 5 kilobase
20 pair (henceforth abbreviated as "kbp") was collected by using Concert™ Rapid Gel Extraction System (DNA collecting kit, GIBCO BRL Co.). In this way, 50 μ l of a solution of DNA with fractionated size was obtained.

On the other hand, 2.5 μ g of plasmid pUC118
25 (Takara Shuzo), 2 μ l of K buffer (200 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM dithiothreitol, 1000 mM KCl (pH 8.5)) and 10 units of restriction enzyme BamHI (Takara Shuzo) were allowed to react at 37°C for 2 hours in a total volume of 20 μ l, then 20 units of calf small intestine

alkaline phosphatase (Takara Shuzo) was added and mixed, and the mixture was allowed to react for further 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was mixed with an equal amount of the phenol/chloroform solution, and the
5 mixture was centrifuged. The supernatant was collected, and an equal amount of the chloroform solution was added thereto to repeat a similar extraction procedure. To the supernatant, a 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 4.8) and 2.5-fold volume of ethanol were added to
10 precipitate DNA. The DNA was collected by centrifugation, washed with 70% ethanol, dried under reduced pressure, and dissolved in a suitable amount of TE solution.

A *Sau3AI* digestion product of the chromosome DNA
15 prepared as described above and a *BamHI* digestion product of pUC118 were ligated by using a Ligation Kit ver. 2 (Takara Shuzo). To the reaction mixture, a 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 4.8) and 2.5-fold volume of ethanol were added to precipitate DNA. The
20 DNA was collected by centrifugation, washed with 70% ethanol, dried under reduced pressure, and dissolved in TE solution (Ligase solution A).

In the same manner as in the above procedure, fragments obtained by partial digestion of the
25 chromosome DNA with a restriction enzyme *AluI* (Takara Shuzo) and a *SmaI* digestion product of plasmid pSTV29 (Takara Shuzo) were ligated (Ligase solution B).

One platinum loop of *E. coli* JM109 was inoculated to 5 ml of L medium in a test tube, and cultured at 37°C

overnight with shaking. The obtained culture broth was inoculated to 50 ml of L medium in a 500 ml-volume Sakaguchi flask in an amount of 1%, cultured at 37°C until OD₆₆₀ of the culture became 0.5 to 0.6, and cooled on ice for 15 minutes. Then, the cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4°C. The cells were suspended in 50 ml of ice-cooled water and centrifuged to wash the cells. This operation was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in 50 ml of ice-cooled 10% glycerol solution, and centrifuged to wash the cells. The cells were suspended in 10% glycerol solution of the same volume as the cells, and divided into 50 μ l aliquots. To the cells in the 50 μ l volume, 1 μ l of Ligase solution A or Ligase solution B prepared above was added. Then, the mixture was put into a special cuvette (0.1 cm width, preliminarily ice-cooled) for an electroporation apparatus of BioRad.

The setting of the apparatus was 1.8 kV and 25 μ F, and the setting of pulse controller was 200 ohms. The cuvette was mounted on the apparatus and pulses were applied thereto. Immediately after the application of pulse, 1 ml of ice-cooled SOC medium was added thereto, and the mixture was transferred into a sterilized test tube, and cultured at 37°C for 1 hour with shaking. Each cell culture broth was spread onto L agar medium containing an antibiotic (100 μ g/ml of ampicillin when Ligase solution A was used, or 20 μ g/ml of chloramphenicol when Ligase solution B was used), and incubated at 37°C overnight. The colonies emerged on

each agar medium were scraped, inoculated to 50 ml of L medium containing respective antibiotic in a 500 ml-volume Sakaguchi flask, and cultured at 37°C for 2 hours with shaking. Plasmid DNA was extracted from each
5 culture broth by the alkali SDS method to form Gene library solution A and Gene library solution B, respectively.

Example 7

10 Cloning of lysine biosynthesis gene of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain

(1) Cloning of gene coding for aspartokinase (AK)

E. coli GT3 deficient in the three genes coding for AK (*thrA*, *metLM* and *lysC*) was transformed with Gene
15 library solution B by the same electroporation procedure as mentioned above. SOC medium containing 20 µg/ml of diaminopimelic acid was added to the transformation solution, and cultured at 37°C with shaking. Then, the culture broth was spread onto L medium containing 20
20 µg/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 20 µg/ml of chloramphenicol to obtain emerged colonies. This was replicated as a master plate to M9 agar medium containing 20 µg/ml of chloramphenicol, and the replicate was incubated at 37°C for 2 to 3 days. The
25 host could not grow in M9 minimal medium that did not contain diaminopimelic acid since it did not have AK activity. In contrast, it was expected that the transformant strain that contained the gene coding for AK derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* could grow

in M9 minimal medium because of the function of the gene.

Two transformants out of about 3000 transformants formed colonies on M9 medium. Plasmids were extracted from the colonies emerged on M9 medium and analyzed. As
5 a result, the presence of an inserted fragment on the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMASK-1 and pMMASK-2, respectively. By using these plasmids, *E. coli* GT3 was transformed again. The obtained transformants could grow on M9 minimal medium.
10 Further, the transformant which contained each of these plasmids was cultured overnight in L medium containing 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of chloramphenicol, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. Cell-free extracts were prepared by sonicating the cells, and
15 AK activity was measured according to the method of Miyajima et al. (Journal of Biochemistry (Tokyo), vol. 63, 139-148 (1968)) (Fig. 3: pMMASK-1, pMMASK-2). In addition, a GT3 strain harboring the vector pSTV29 was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of
20 diaminopimelic acid and 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of chloramphenicol, and AK activity was measured (Fig. 3: Vector). As a result, increase in AK activity was observed in two of the clones containing the inserted fragments compared with the transformant harboring only the vector. Therefore,
25 it was confirmed that the gene that could be cloned on pSTV29 was a gene coding for AK derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus*. This gene was designated as *ask*.

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *ask* gene was

determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that pMMASK-1 and pMMASK-2 contained a common fragment. The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the ask gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 5. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 5 and 6.

(2) Cloning of gene coding for aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase (ASD)

E. coli Hfr3000 U482 (CGSC 5081 strain) deficient in the *asd* gene was transformed by electroporation using Gene library solution B in the same manner as described above. To the transformation solution, SOC medium containing 20 μ g/ml of diaminopimelic acid was added and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. The cells were harvested by centrifugation. The cells were washed by suspending them in L medium and centrifuging the suspension. The same washing operation was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in L medium. Then, the suspension was spread onto L agar medium containing 20 μ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and incubated overnight at 37°C. The host showed extremely slow growth in L medium not containing diaminopimelic acid since it was deficient in the *asd* gene. In contrast, it was expected that normal growth would be observed for a transformant strain which contained the gene coding for ASD derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* even in L medium because of the function of the gene. Further,

the host *E. coli* could not grow in M9 minimal medium, but a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for ASD derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* was expected to be able to grow in M9 minimal medium because
5 of the function of the gene. Therefore, colonies of transformants that normally grew on L medium were picked up, streaked and cultured on M9 agar medium. As a result, growth was observed. Thus, it was confirmed that the gene coding for ASD functioned in these
10 transformant strains as expected.

Plasmids were extracted from the three transformant strains emerged on M9 medium, and the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMASD-1,
15 pMMASD-2 and pMMASD-3, respectively. When the *E. coli* Hfr3000 U482 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each transformant grew in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant was cultured overnight in L medium containing 20 μ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and the
20 cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a crude enzyme solution, and ASD activity was measured according to the method of Boy et al. (Journal of Bacteriology, vol. 112 (1), 84-92 (1972)) (Fig. 4: pMMASD-1, pMMASD-2,
25 pMMASD-3). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 μ g/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 20 μ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and ASD activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 4: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity

could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the ASD activity could be detected in three of the clones having an insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that the obtained
5 gene was a gene coding for ASD derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *asd*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *asd* gene was determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that all of the three obtained clones contained a common fragment.
10 The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the *asd* gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 7. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 7 and 8.

15 (3) Cloning of gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase (DDPS)

E. coli AT997 (CGSC 4547 strain) deficient in the *dapA* gene was transformed by the same electroporation
20 procedure using Gene library solution A. To the transformation solution, SOC medium containing 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of diaminopimelic acid was added, and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. Then, the culture broth was spread onto L medium containing 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of
25 diaminopimelic acid and 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of ampicillin to obtain emerged colonies. This was replicated as a master plate to M9 minimal agar medium containing 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of ampicillin, and the replicate was incubated at 37°C for 2 to 3 days. The host could not grow in M9

minimal medium that did not contain diaminopimelic acid since it was deficient in *dapA* gene. In contrast, it was expected that a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus*
5 *methylophilus* could grow in M9 minimal medium because of the function of that gene.

Plasmids were extracted from the colonies of two strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was
10 confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMDAPA-1 and pMMDAP-2, respectively. When *E. coli* AT997 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each transformant was grown in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each plasmid was cultured
15 overnight in L medium containing 100 μ g/ml of ampicillin, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPS activity was measured according to the method of Yugari et al. (Journal of Biological
20 Chemistry, vol.240, and p.4710 (1965)) (Fig. 5: pMMDAPA-1, pMMDAPA-2). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 μ g/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 100 μ g/ml of ampicillin, and DDPS activity was measured as a control experiment
25 (Fig. 5: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPS activity could be detected in each of the transformants harboring the plasmids having the insert fragment. Therefore, it was

confirmed that the obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *dapA*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *dapA* gene was
 5 determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that two
 of the inserted fragments contained a common fragment.
 The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing
 the *dapA* gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus*
 is shown in SEQ ID NO: 9. An amino acid sequence that
 10 can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in
 SEQ ID NOS: 9 and 10.

(4) Cloning of gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate reductase (DDPR)

15 *E. coli* AT999 (CGSC 4549 strain) deficient in the
dapB gene was transformed by the same electroporation
 procedure as described above using Gene library solution
 A. To the transformation solution, SOC medium
 containing 20 µg/ml of diaminopimelic acid was added,
 20 and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. Then,
 the cells were harvested by centrifugation. The cells
 were washed by suspending them in L medium and
 centrifuging the suspension. The same washing operation
 was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in
 25 L medium. Then, the suspension was spread onto L agar
 medium containing 100 µg/ml of ampicillin, and incubated
 overnight at 37°C. The host showed extremely slow
 growth in L medium not containing diaminopimelic acid
 since it was deficient in the *dapB* gene. In contrast,

it was expected that normal growth could be observed for a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* even in L medium because of the function of the gene. Further, the host *E. coli* could not grow in M9 minimal medium, but it was expected that a transformant strain which contained the gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* could grow in M9 minimal medium because of the function of the gene.

Therefore, a colony of transformant that normally grew on L medium was streaked and cultured on M9 agar medium. Then, growth was also observed on M9 medium. Thus, it was confirmed that the gene coding for DDPR functioned in the transformant strain. A plasmid was extracted from the colony emerged on M9 medium, and the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmid was confirmed. When *E. coli* AT999 was transformed again by using the plasmid (pMMDAPB), the transformant grew in M9 minimal medium. Further, the transformant containing the plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPR activity was measured according to the method of Tamir et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol. 249, p.3034 (1974)) (Fig. 6: pMMDAPB). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ diaminopimelic acid and 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of ampicillin, and DDPR activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 6: Vector). As a result, the

enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPR activity could be detected for the transformant harboring pMMDAPB. Therefore, it was confirmed that the
 5 obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *dapB*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *dapB* gene was determined by the dideoxy method. The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the *dapB* gene
 10 derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 11. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 11 and 12.

15 (5) Cloning of gene coding for diaminopimelate decarboxylase (DPDC)

E. coli AT2453 (CGSC 4505 strain) deficient in the *lysA* gene was transformed by the same electroporation procedure as described above using Gene library solution

20 A. The transformation solution, SOC medium was added, and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. The cells were harvested by centrifugation. The cells were washed by suspending them in 5 ml of sterilized water and centrifuging the suspension. The same washing
 25 operation was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in 500 µl of sterilized water. Then, the suspension was spread onto M9 minimal agar medium containing 20 µg/ml of chloramphenicol, and incubated at 37°C for 2 to 3 days. The host could not grow in M9

minimal medium not containing lysine since it was deficient in the *lysA* gene. In contrast, it was expected that a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for DPDC derived from *Methylophilus*
5 *methylophilus* could grow in M9 minimal medium because of the function of the gene.

Therefore, plasmids were extracted from the three transformant strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the
10 plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMLYSA-1, pMMLYSA-2 and pMMLYSA-3, respectively. When *E. coli* AT2453 was transformed again by using each of these plasmids, each transformant grew in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each
15 plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium containing 20 μ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DPDC activity was measured according to the method of Cremer et al.
20 (Journal of General Microbiology, vol. 134, 3221-3229 (1988)) (Fig. 7: pMMLYSA-1, pMMLYSA-2, pMMLYSA-3). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20 μ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and DPDC activity was measured as a
25 control experiment (Fig. 7: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DPDC activity could be detected in three of the clones having an insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that

the obtained gene was a gene coding for DPDC derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *lysA*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *lysA* gene was determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that all
5 of the three inserted fragments contained a common DNA fragment. The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the *lysA* gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 13. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence
10 is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 13 and 14.

Industrial Applicability

According to the present invention, there are provided a *Methylophilus* bacterium having L-amino acid-
15 producing ability, a method for producing an L-amino acid using the *Methylophilus* bacterium, and *Methylophilus* bacterial cells with increased content of an L-amino acid. By the method of the present invention, it is enabled to produce an L-amino acid using methanol
20 as a raw material. Moreover, novel L-lysine biosynthesis enzyme genes derived from *Methylophilus* bacteria are provided by the present invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A *Methylophilus* bacterium having L-amino acid-producing ability.
- 5 2. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.
3. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,
10 which shows resistance to an L-amino acid analogue or L-amino acid auxotrophy.
4. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,
15 wherein L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity is enhanced.
5. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,
wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and aspartokinase activity are enhanced, and the bacterium
20 has L-lysine-producing ability.
6. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,
wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing
25 ability.
7. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,
wherein aspartokinase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

8. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.
9. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 5, wherein the dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and the aspartokinase activity are enhanced by transformation through introduction into cells, of a DNA coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine and a DNA coding for aspartokinase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine.
10. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1, wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-threonine-producing ability.
11. The bacterium according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.
12. A method for producing an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined

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in any one of claim 1 to 11 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

- 5 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the medium contains methanol as a main carbon source.

- 10 14. A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in any one of claim 1 to 11 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.

- 15 15. The method for producing bacterial cells of the *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 14, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.

- 20 16. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (A) or (B):

(A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or

- 25 (B) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 6 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartokinase activity.

17. The DNA according to claim 16, which is a DNA

defined in the following (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5; or

- 5 (b) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartokinase activity.

10

18. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (C) or (D):

(C) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or

- 15 (D) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

- 20 19. The DNA according to claim 18, which is a DNA defined in the following (c) or (d):

(c) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7; or

- 25 (d) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

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20. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (E) or (F):

(E) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ
5 ID NO: 10, or

(F) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ
ID NO: 10 including substitution, deletion, insertion,
addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and
has dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

10

21. The DNA according to claim 20, which is a DNA defined in the following (e) or (f):

(e) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to
15 2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(f) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to
2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9 or a part thereof under a stringent
condition, and codes for a protein having
20 dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

22. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (G) or (H):

(G) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ
25 ID NO: 12, or

(H) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ
ID NO: 12 including substitution, deletion, insertion,
addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and
has dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

23. The DNA according to claim 22, which is a DNA defined in the following (g) or (h):

(g) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the
5 nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

(h) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11 or a part thereof under a
10 stringent condition, and codes for a protein having dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

24. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (I) or (J):

15 (I) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14, or

(J) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 14 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and
20 has diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

25. The DNA according to claim 24, which is a DNA defined in the following (i) or (j):

(i) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the
25 nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to 1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13; or

(j) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to 1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13 or a part thereof under a

stringent condition, and codes for a protein having diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

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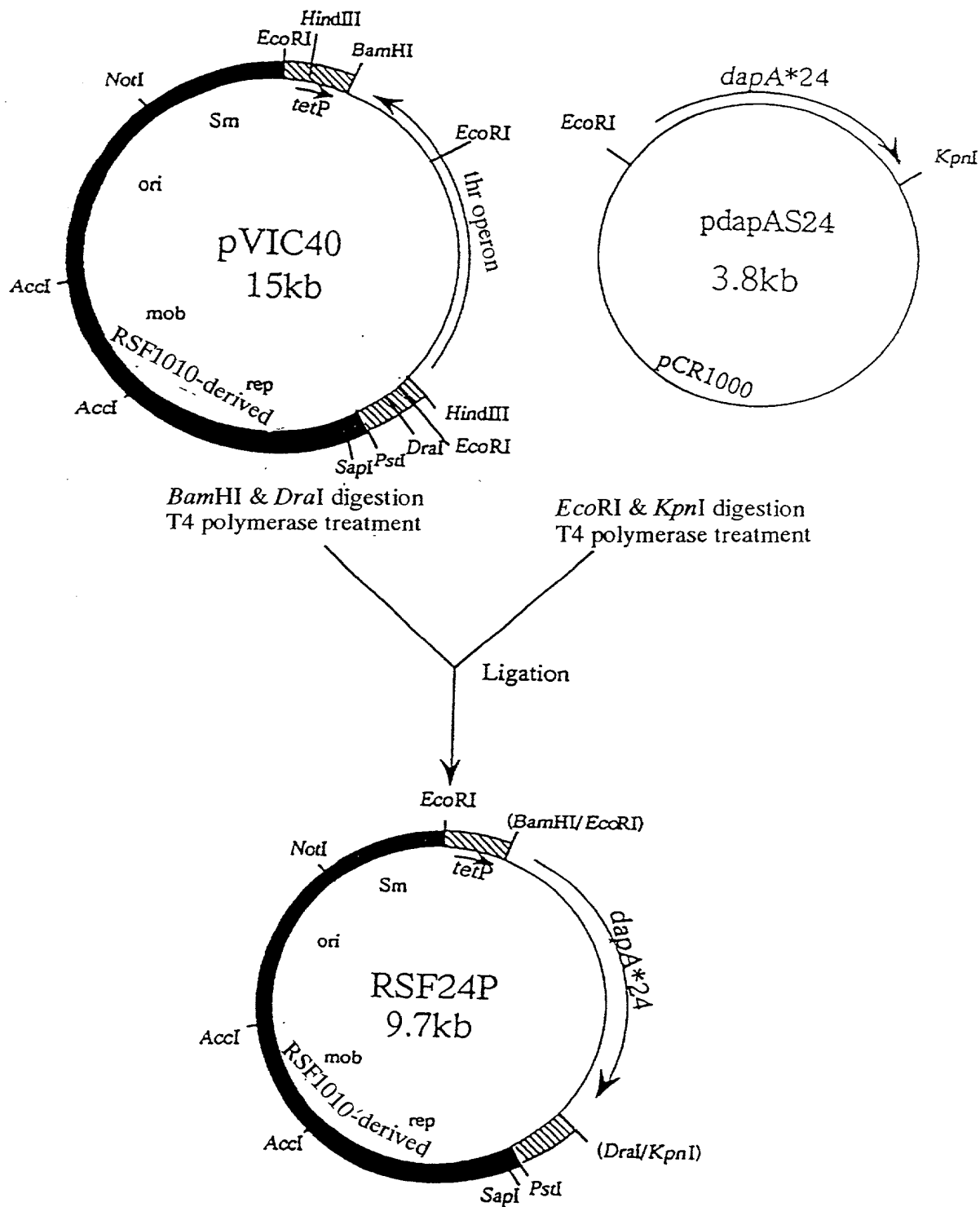


FIG. 1

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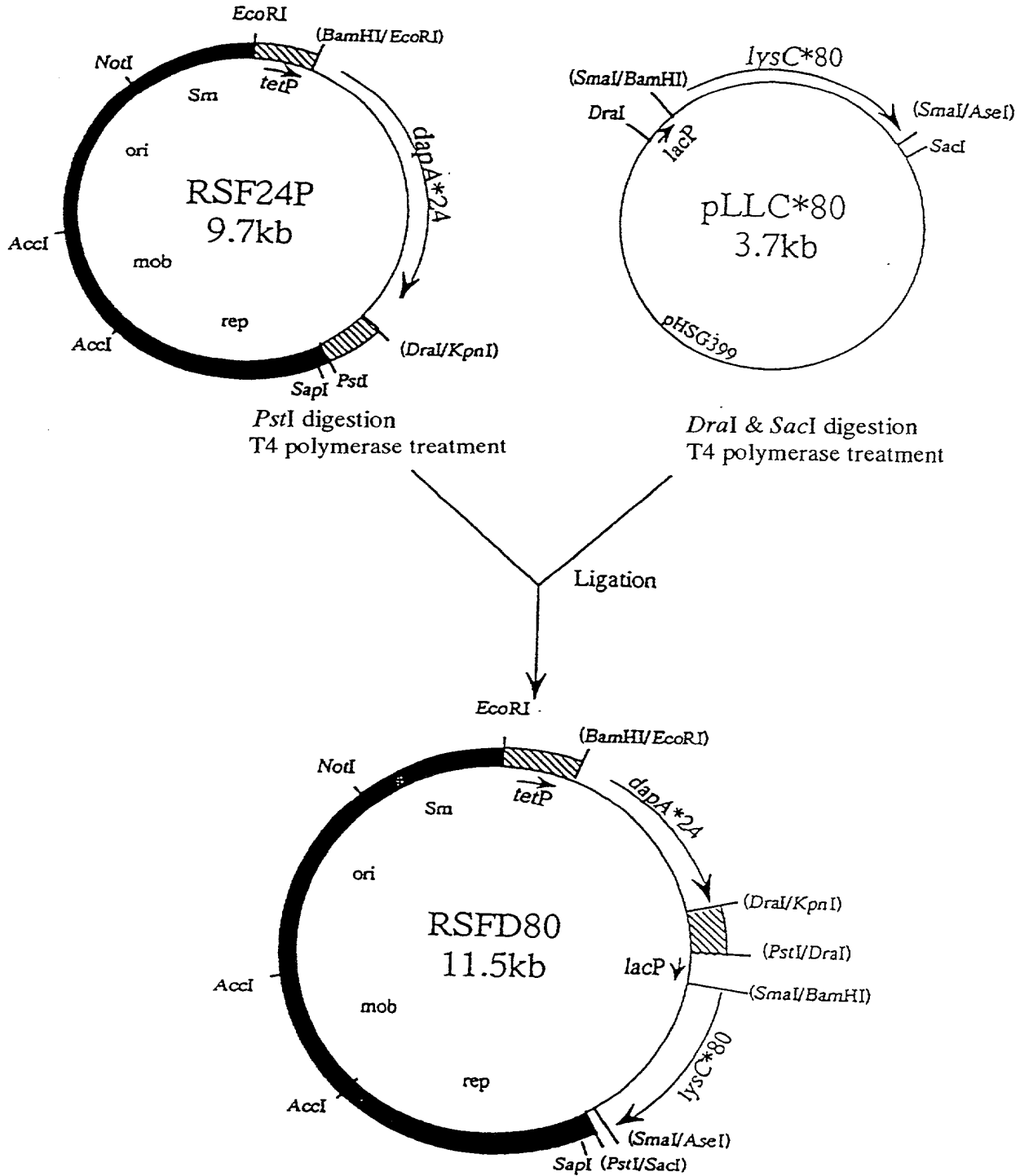


FIG. 2

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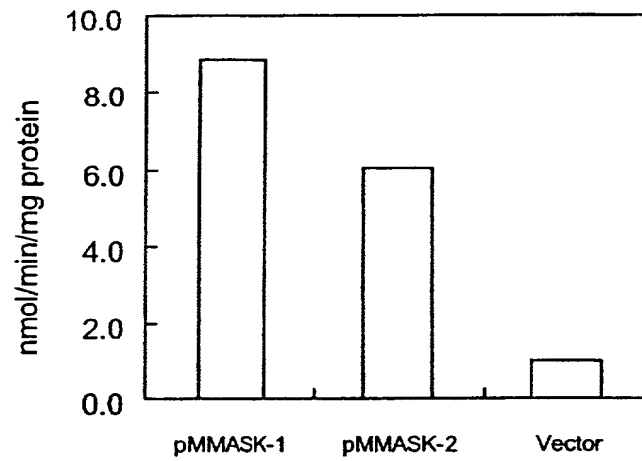


FIG. 3

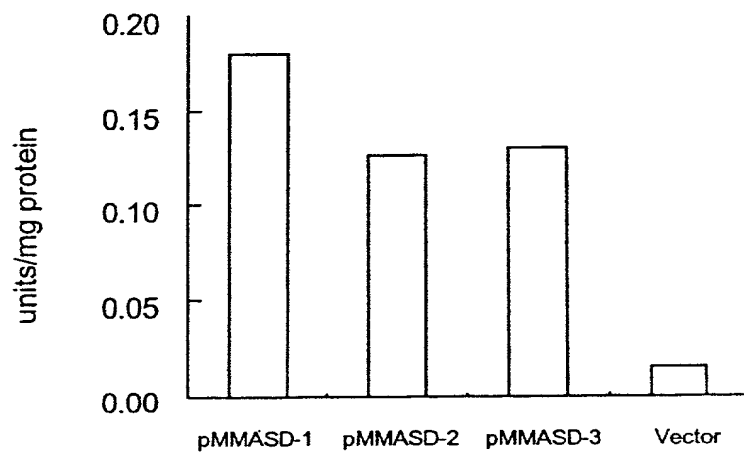


FIG. 4

4/5

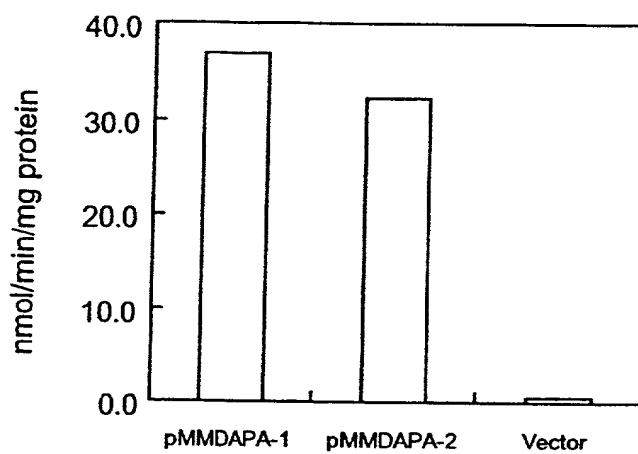


FIG. 5

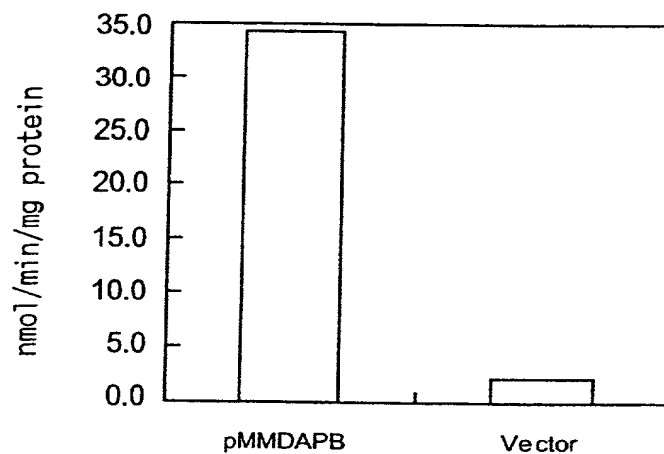


FIG. 6

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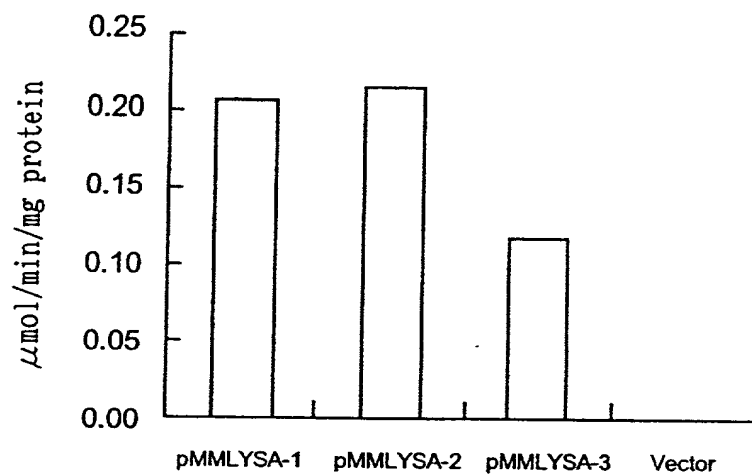


FIG. 7

Declaration, Power Of Attorney and Petition

Page 1 of 3

WE (I) the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____
and amended on _____.

☒ was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/JP 00/02295
on April 7, 2000,

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on _____ (if applicable).

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application(s)

Application No.	Country	Day/Month/Year	Priority Claimed	
<u>11-103143</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>09/04/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>11-169447</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>16/06/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>11-368097</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>24/12/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (pending, patented, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

And we (I) hereby appoint: Norman F. Oblon, Registration Number 24,618; Marvin J. Spivak, Registration Number 24,913; C. Irvin McClelland, Registration Number 21,124; Gregory J. Maier, Registration Number 25,599; Arthur L. Neustadt, Registration Number 24,854; Richard D. Kelly, Registration Number 27,757; James D. Hamilton, Registration Number 28,421; Eckhard H. Kuesters, Registration Number 28,870; Robert T. Pous, Registration Number 29,099; Charles L. Gholz, Registration Number 26,395; Vincent J. Sunderdick, Registration Number 29,004; William E. Beaumont, Registration Number 30,996; Steven B. Kelber, Registration Number 30,073; Robert F. Gnuse, Registration Number 27,295; Jean-Paul Lavalleye, Registration Number 31,451; Timothy R. Schwartz, Registration Number 32,171; Stephen G. Baxter, Registration Number 32,884; Martin M. Zoltick, Registration Number 35,745; Robert W. Hahl, Registration Number 33,893; Richard L. Treanor, Registration Number 36,379; Steven P. Weihrouch, Registration Number 32,829; John T. Goolkasian, Registration Number 26,142; Marc R. Labgold, Registration Number 34,651; William J. Healey, Registration Number 36,160; and Richard L. Chinn, Registration Number 34,305; our (my) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith; and we (I) hereby request that all correspondence regarding this application be sent to the firm of OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C., whose Post Office Address is: Fourth Floor, 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Yoshiya GUNJI
NAME OF FIRST SOLE INVENTOR

Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Yoshiya Gunji
Signature of Inventor

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address:

c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation &
Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-ch
Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

July 23, 2001
Date

200 Hisashi YASUEDA

NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR

JPX
Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address:

c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation &
Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-cho,
Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Hisashi Yasueda

Signature of Inventor

July 23, 2001

Date

300 Shinichi SUGIMOTO

NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR

JPX
Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address:

c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation &
Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-cho,
Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Shinichi Sugimoto

Signature of Inventor

July 23, 2001

Date

400 Nobuharu TSUJIMOTO

NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR

JPX
Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address:

c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation &
Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-cho,
Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Nobuharu Tsujimoto

Signature of Inventor

July 23, 2001

Date

500 Megumi SHIMAOKA

NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR

JPX
Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address:

c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc., Fermentation &
Biotechnology Laboratories, 1-1, Suzuki-cho,
Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Megumi Shimaoka

Signature of Inventor

July 23, 2001

Date

[Handwritten signature]

6-10

Yuri MIYATA
NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR

Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

Yuri Miyata
Signature of Inventor

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address: c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc.,
Fermentation & Biotechnology Laboratories,
1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa, Japan

July 23, 2001

Date

7-10

Manami OBA
NAME OF SEVENTH JOINT INVENTOR

Residence: Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan

[Handwritten signature]

Manami Oba
Signature of Inventor

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address: c/o Ajinomoto Co., Inc.,
Fermentation & Biotechnology Laboratories,
1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-shi,
Kanagawa, Japan

July 23, 2001

Date

NAME OF EIGHTH JOINT INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

NAME OF NINTH JOINT INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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				340					345					350				
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				355					360					365				
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370	375	380
Gly Leu Ala Leu Val Ala Leu Ile Gly Asn Asp Leu Ser Lys Ala Cys		
385	390	395
Gly Val Gly Lys Glu Val Phe Gly Val Leu Glu Pro Phe Asn Ile Arg		400
	405	410
Met Ile Cys Tyr Gly Ala Ser Ser His Asn Leu Cys Phe Leu Val Pro		415
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Glu		

<210> 5
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 <212> DNA
 <213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<220>
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 <222> (510)..(1736)

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 Met Ala Leu Ile Val Gln Lys Tyr

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Gly Gly Thr Ser Val Ala Asn Pro Glu Arg Ile Arg Asn Val Ala Arg	
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aac	atg	gaa	gaa	cca	att	atc	tcc	ggc	atc	gcc	ttt	aac	cgc	gat	gag	1301	
Asn	Met	Glu	Glu	Pro	Ile	Ile	Ser	Gly	Ile	Ala	Phe	Asn	Arg	Asp	Glu		
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gcg	aaa	att	acc	gtg	acg	ggc	gtg	ccc	gac	aaa	cca	gga	att	gcc	tat	1349	
Ala	Lys	Ile	Thr	Val	Thr	Gly	Val	Pro	Asp	Lys	Pro	Gly	Ile	Ala	Tyr		
265				270				275				280					
cag	att	ttg	ggc	cgc	gtg	gca	gac	gcc	aat	att	gat	gtg	gat	atg	att	1397	
Gln	Ile	Leu	Gly	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp	Ala	Asn	Ile	Asp	Val	Asp	Met	Ile		
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atc	cag	aac	gtc	ggt	gcg	gat	ggt	acg	act	gac	ttc	acc	ttt	acc	gta	1445	
Ile	Gln	Asn	Val	Gly	Ala	Asp	Gly	Thr	Thr	Asp	Phe	Thr	Phe	Thr	Val		
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cat	aaa	aat	gag	atg	aac	aaa	gcc	ctg	agc	att	ctt	aga	gat	aaa	gtg	1493	
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Gln	Gly	His	Ile	Gln	Ala	Arg	Glu	Ile	Ser	Gly	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ile	Ala		
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Lys	Val	Ser	Val	Val	Gly	Val	Gly	Met	Arg	Ser	His	Val	Gly	Ile	Ala		
345				350				355				360					
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Ser	Gln	Met	Phe	Arg	Thr	Leu	Ala	Glu	Glu	Gly	Ile	Asn	Ile	Gln	Met		
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atc	tca	acc	agc	gaa	att	aaa	att	gca	gtc	gtg	atc	gaa	gag	aag	tac	1685	
Ile	Ser	Thr	Ser	Glu	Ile	Lys	Ile	Ala	Val	Val	Ile	Glu	Glu	Lys	Tyr		
380				385				390									
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Ala																	
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<211> 409

<212> PRT

<213> *Methylophilus methylotrophus*

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				20				25					30		
Gly	His	Gln	Val	Val	Val	Val	Val	Ser	Ala	Met	Ser	Gly	Glu	Thr	Asn
		35					40					45			
Arg	Leu	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala	Lys	Glu	Ile	Met	Gln	Asp	Pro	Asp	Pro	Arg
	50					55				60					
Glu	Leu	Asp	Val	Met	Val	Ser	Thr	Gly	Glu	Gln	Val	Thr	Ile	Gly	Met
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Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	Met	Glu	Leu	Gly	Ile	Lys	Ala	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Thr
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Ile	Leu	Asp	Ile	Asp	Glu	His	Asn	Leu	Lys	Lys	Asp	Leu	Asp	Asp	Gly
	115					120						125			
Tyr	Val	Cys	Val	Val	Ala	Gly	Phe	Gln	Gly	Val	Asp	Ala	Asn	Gly	Asn
	130					135					140				
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Gly	Val	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Asp	Pro	Arg	Val	Val	Pro	Glu	Ala	Arg	Arg	Leu
	180						185						190		
Asp	Lys	Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Leu	Glu	Leu	Ala	Ser	Gln	Gly	Ser
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Lys	Val	Leu	Gln	Ile	Arg	Ser	Val	Glu	Phe	Ala	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Lys	Val
	210					215					220				
Lys	Leu	Arg	Val	Leu	Ser	Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Glu	Gly	Asp	Gly	Thr	Leu
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Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Asn	Glu	Glu	Asn	Met	Glu	Glu	Pro	Ile	Ile	Ser

	245		250		255
Gly Ile Ala Phe Asn Arg Asp Glu Ala Lys Ile Thr Val Thr Gly Val					
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Pro Asp Lys Pro Gly Ile Ala Tyr Gln Ile Leu Gly Pro Val Ala Asp					
	275		280		285
Ala Asn Ile Asp Val Asp Met Ile Ile Gln Asn Val Gly Ala Asp Gly					
	290		295		300
Thr Thr Asp Phe Thr Phe Thr Val His Lys Asn Glu Met Asn Lys Ala					
305		310		315	320
Leu Ser Ile Leu Arg Asp Lys Val Gln Gly His Ile Gln Ala Arg Glu					
	325		330		335
Ile Ser Gly Asp Asp Lys Ile Ala Lys Val Ser Val Val Gly Val Gly					
	340		345		350
Met Arg Ser His Val Gly Ile Ala Ser Gln Met Phe Arg Thr Leu Ala					
	355		360		365
Glu Glu Gly Ile Asn Ile Gln Met Ile Ser Thr Ser Glu Ile Lys Ile					
	370		375		380
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<211> 1452

<212> DNA

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (98)..(1207)

<400> 7

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                                Met Leu Lys Val Gly Phe
                                1                5
gta ggc tgg cgt ggc atg gtt gga tcc gtg cta atg cag cgc atg atg 163
Val Gly Trp Arg Gly Met Val Gly Ser Val Leu Met Gln Arg Met Met

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caa acg gga ggg gct gcg cct aaa gtt gga aaa gat act cct gcg ctg	259		
Gln Thr Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Lys Val Gly Lys Asp Thr Pro Ala Leu			
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aaa gat gcc aag gat att gat gct ttg cgc cag atg gat gtg att gtg	307		
Lys Asp Ala Lys Asp Ile Asp Ala Leu Arg Gln Met Asp Val Ile Val			
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Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Asp Tyr Thr Ser Asp Val Phe Pro Gln Leu Arg			
75	80	85	
gca acc ggc tgg agc ggc cac tgg att gac gcg gcc tct acc tta cgc	403		
Ala Thr Gly Trp Ser Gly His Trp Ile Asp Ala Ala Ser Thr Leu Arg			
90	95	100	
atg gaa aaa gac tcc gtg atc att tta gac ccg gtg aac atg cat gtg	451		
Met Glu Lys Asp Ser Val Ile Ile Leu Asp Pro Val Asn Met His Val			
105	110	115	
att aaa gat gca ttg tcc aat ggc ggc aaa aac tgg atc ggc ggc aac	499		
Ile Lys Asp Ala Leu Ser Asn Gly Gly Lys Asn Trp Ile Gly Gly Asn			
120	125	130	
tgt acc gtc tca ctt atg ttg atg gcg ctg aat ggc ctg ttt aag gct	547		
Cys Thr Val Ser Leu Met Leu Met Ala Leu Asn Gly Leu Phe Lys Ala			
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gac ctg gtc gag tgg gcc act tcc atg acc tac cag gcg gct tca ggc	595		
Asp Leu Val Glu Trp Ala Thr Ser Met Thr Tyr Gln Ala Ala Ser Gly			
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gca ggc gcg cag aat atg cgt gaa ctg att agc cag atg ggc gta gtg	643		
Ala Gly Ala Gln Asn Met Arg Glu Leu Ile Ser Gln Met Gly Val Val			
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Asn Ala Ser Val Ala Asp Leu Leu Ala Asp Pro Ala Ser Ala Ile Leu			
185	190	195	
cag atc gat aaa aca gtg gcg gat acc atc cgt agc gaa gag ttg cct	739		
Gln Ile Asp Lys Thr Val Ala Asp Thr Ile Arg Ser Glu Glu Leu Pro			
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 Asp Lys Asp Leu Gly Asn Gly Gln Ser Lys Glu Glu Trp Lys Gly Gly
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 Met Leu Ala Glu Ala Asn Asp Trp Ala Lys Val Ile Pro Asn Glu Arg
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 Glu Val Ser Met Arg Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala Ala Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu
 315 320 325
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 330 335 340
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 Pro Leu Arg Arg Met Leu Arg Ile Leu Val Glu Ser
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<211> 370

<212> PRT

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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Gln	Phe	Phe	Thr	Thr	Ser	Gln	Thr	Gly	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro	Lys	Val	Gly
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Lys	Asp	Thr	Pro	Ala	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ala	Lys	Asp	Ile	Asp	Ala	Leu	Arg
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Val	Phe	Pro	Gln	Leu	Arg	Ala	Thr	Gly	Trp	Ser	Gly	His	Trp	Ile	Asp
					85				90					95	
Ala	Ala	Ser	Thr	Leu	Arg	Met	Glu	Lys	Asp	Ser	Val	Ile	Ile	Leu	Asp
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Pro	Val	Asn	Met	His	Val	Ile	Lys	Asp	Ala	Leu	Ser	Asn	Gly	Gly	Lys
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				165					170					175	
Ser	Gln	Met	Gly	Val	Val	Asn	Ala	Ser	Val	Ala	Asp	Leu	Leu	Ala	Asp
		180						185					190		
Pro	Ala	Ser	Ala	Ile	Leu	Gln	Ile	Asp	Lys	Thr	Val	Ala	Asp	Thr	Ile
		195					200						205		
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Glu	Glu	Trp	Lys	Gly	Gly	Val	Xaa	Thr	Asn	Lys	Ile	Leu	Gly	Arg	Glu
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<211> 3098

<212> DNA

<213> *Methylophilus methylotrophus*

<220>

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 Gly Thr Thr Gly Glu Ser Pro Thr Val Asp Val Asp Glu His Cys Leu
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 Leu Ile Lys Thr Thr Ile Glu His Val Ala Lys Arg Val Pro Val Ile
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 gcc ggt act ggc gca aat tcc act gct gaa gcc att gaa ctg act gcc 1549
 Ala Gly Thr Gly Ala Asn Ser Thr Ala Glu Ala Ile Glu Leu Thr Ala
 80 85 90
 aag gcc aag gcg ctt ggc gca gac gcc tgc ctg ctg gtg gca ccg tat 1597
 Lys Ala Lys Ala Leu Gly Ala Asp Ala Cys Leu Leu Val Ala Pro Tyr
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 Tyr Asn Lys Pro Ser Gln Glu Gly Leu Tyr Gln His Phe Lys Ala Val
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 Thr Gly Cys Asp Leu Ser Asn Asp Thr Val Leu Arg Leu Ala Gln Ile
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 Arg Asn Ile Val Gly Ile Lys Asp Ala Thr Gly Gly Ile Glu Arg Gly

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Thr Asp Leu Leu Leu Arg Ala Pro Ala Asp Phe Ala Ile Tyr Ser Gly			
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Asp Asp Ala Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Leu Leu Gly Gly Lys Gly Val			
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Ile Ser Val Thr Ala Asn Val Ala Pro Lys Leu Met His Glu Met Cys			
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Glu His Ala Leu Asn Gly Asn Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Asn Ala			
225	230	235	
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Lys Leu Phe Ala Leu His Gln Lys Leu Phe Val Glu Ala Asn Pro Ile			
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Pro Val Lys Trp Val Leu Gln Gln Met Gly Met Ile Ala Thr Gly Ile			
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Asn Ala Met Lys Gln Ala Glu Ile Ala Ala			
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<212> PRT

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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 Lys Thr Thr Ile Glu His Val Ala Lys Arg Val Pro Val Ile Ala Gly
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 Cys Asp Leu Ser Asn Asp Thr Val Leu Arg Leu Ala Gln Ile Arg Asn
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 Ile Val Gly Ile Lys Asp Ala Thr Gly Gly Ile Glu Arg Gly Thr Asp
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 Ala Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Leu Leu Gly Gly Lys Gly Val Ile Ser
 195 200 205
 Val Thr Ala Asn Val Ala Pro Lys Leu Met His Glu Met Cys Glu His
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Met Leu Lys Val Val

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50

65

85

95

100

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 atc gta ttt gct cca aac atg agc gta ggg gtc acc ctc ttg att aac 2478
 Ile Val Phe Ala Pro Asn Met Ser Val Gly Val Thr Leu Leu Ile Asn
 120 125 130
 ctg gtt gag caa gcc gca cgg gtg ctc aat gaa ggc tat gat att gag 2526
 Leu Val Glu Gln Ala Ala Arg Val Leu Asn Glu Gly Tyr Asp Ile Glu
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 gtg gtt gaa atg cat cac cgc cat aag gtg gat gcg cct tca ggc acg 2574
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 Ala Leu Arg Leu Gly Glu Ala Ala Ala Lys Gly Ile Asp Lys Ala Leu
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 aaa gat tgt gct gtg tat gcg cgc gaa ggc gtg act ggt gaa cgc gaa 2670
 Lys Asp Cys Ala Val Tyr Ala Arg Glu Gly Val Thr Gly Glu Arg Glu
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 Ala Gly Thr Ile Gly Phe Ala Thr Leu Arg Gly Gly Asp Val Val Gly
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 gac cat acg gtg gtt ctg gct ggt gtg ggt gag cga gta gag tta acg 2766
 Asp His Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly Val Gly Glu Arg Val Glu Leu Thr
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<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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Ser	Lys	Asn	Ile	Gly	Ile	Val	Phe	Ala	Pro	Asn	Met	Ser	Val	Gly	Val	
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Arg Val Glu Leu Thr His Lys Ala Ser Ser Arg Ala Thr Phe Ala Gln
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Val Thr Ala Phe Ser Ile Gln Gln

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ggc cta cta cat gcc gag aat gta gcc ctg cgt gac att gca caa acg 822

Gly Leu Leu His Ala Glu Asn Val Ala Leu Arg Asp Ile Ala Gln Thr

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15

20

cat caa acg ccc act tac gtc tat tca cgt gcc gcc ttg acg act gct 870

His Gln Thr Pro Thr Tyr Val Tyr Ser Arg Ala Ala Leu Thr Thr Ala

25

30

35

40

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Val	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asp	Pro	Lys	Lys	Val	Val	Phe	Ser	Gly	Val	
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Cys	Phe	Asn	Val	Glu	Ser	Val	Asn	Glu	Leu	Asp	Arg	Ile	Gln	Gln	Val	
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Ala	Ala	Ser	Leu	Gly	Lys	Lys	Ala	Pro	Ile	Ser	Leu	Arg	Val	Asn	Pro	
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Arg Pro Ala Leu Tyr Asp Ala Phe His Asn Ile Thr Thr Ile Ala Thr																			
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Ser Gly Asp Phe Leu Gly His Asp Arg Thr Leu Ala Ile Glu Glu Gly																			
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Asp Tyr Leu Ala Ile His Ser Ala Gly Ala Tyr Gly Met Ser Met Ala																			
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Ser Asn Tyr Asn Thr Arg Ala Arg Ala Ala Glu Val Leu Val Asp Gly																			
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Lys Leu Glu Arg Thr Leu Pro																			
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Val Gly Ile Thr Tyr Ser Asp Glu Thr Pro Pro Asp Phe Ala Ala Tyr		
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Glu Ile Val Gly Pro Val Cys Glu Ser Gly Asp Phe Leu Gly His Asp		
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<213> Artificial Sequence

<223> primer for amplification of dapA*24 gene

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SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> GUNJI, YOSHIYA

YASUEDA, HISASHI

SUGIMOTO, SHINICHI

TSUJIMOTO, NOBUHARU

SHIMAOKA, MEGUMI

MIYATA, YURI

OBA, MANAMI

<120> L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

<130> 212289US0PCT

<150> PCT/JP 00/02295

<151> 2000-04-17

<150> JP 11-103143

<151> 1999-04-09

<150> JP 11-169447

<151> 1999-06-16

<150> JP 11-368097

<151> 1999-12-24

<160> 20

<170> PatentIn version 3.1

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Leu Lys Lys Leu Ile Asp Tyr His Val Ala Ser Gly Thr Ser Ala Ile
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Val Ser Val Gly Thr Thr Gly Glu Ser Ala Thr Leu Asn His Asp Glu
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Ala Thr Leu Asn His Asp Glu His Ala Asp Val Val Met Met Thr Leu
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Ile Val Gly Cys Leu Thr Val Thr Pro Tyr Tyr Asn Arg Pro Ser Gln
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atc Ile	tca Ser	acc Thr	agc Ser 380	gaa Glu	att Ile	aaa Lys	att Ile	gca Ala 385	gtc Val	gtg Val	atc Ile	gaa Glu	gag Glu	aag Lys	tac Tyr	1685

atg gaa ctg gct gta cgc gtg ttg cat aaa gca ttc ggc ctc gaa aac 1733
 Met Glu Leu Ala Val Arg Val Leu His Lys Ala Phe Gly Leu Glu Asn
 395 400 405

gca taatcgccaa cggacgaata aagaaataaa acattcttct tttttgcgtt 1786
 Ala

gattttttgaa ggggttttcac gtagtatggc agcccttcga tgcagtagca atgctgcaaa 1846

gagaacagca tgccgctgtg ttggtactat taaaacttca ttgttttaat aaggtgaggg 1906

ggatcctcta gagtcgacct gcaggcatgc aagcttggcc gtaatccatg gtcatagctg 1966

tttcctgggtg tgaaa 1981

<210> 6

<211> 409

<212> PRT

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<400> 6

Met Ala Leu Ile Val Gln Lys Tyr Gly Gly Thr Ser Val Ala Asn Pro
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Glu Arg Ile Arg Asn Val Ala Arg Arg Val Ala Arg Tyr Lys Ala Leu
 20 25 30

Gly His Gln Val Val Val Val Val Ser Ala Met Ser Gly Glu Thr Asn
 35 40 45

Arg Leu Ile Ser Leu Ala Lys Glu Ile Met Gln Asp Pro Asp Pro Arg
 50 55 60

Glu Leu Asp Val Met Val Ser Thr Gly Glu Gln Val Thr Ile Gly Met
 65 70 75 80

Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Glu Leu Gly Ile Lys Ala Lys Ser Tyr Thr
 85 90 95

Gly	Thr	Gln	Val	Lys	Ile	Leu	Thr	Asp	Asp	Ala	Phe	Thr	Lys	Ala	Arg	100	105	110	
Ile	Leu	Asp	Ile	Asp	Glu	His	Asn	Leu	Lys	Lys	Asp	Leu	Asp	Asp	Gly	115	120	125	
Tyr	Val	Cys	Val	Val	Ala	Gly	Phe	Gln	Gly	Val	Asp	Ala	Asn	Gly	Asn	130	135	140	
Ile	Thr	Thr	Leu	Gly	Arg	Gly	Gly	Ser	Asp	Thr	Thr	Gly	Val	Ala	Leu	145	150	155	160
Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu	Lys	Ala	Asp	Glu	Cys	Gln	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Asp	Val	Asp	165	170	175	
Gly	Val	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Asp	Pro	Arg	Val	Val	Pro	Glu	Ala	Arg	Arg	Leu	180	185	190	
Asp	Lys	Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Leu	Glu	Leu	Ala	Ser	Gln	Gly	Ser	195	200	205	
Lys	Val	Leu	Gln	Ile	Arg	Ser	Val	Glu	Phe	Ala	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Lys	Val	210	215	220	
Lys	Leu	Arg	Val	Leu	Ser	Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Glu	Gly	Asp	Gly	Thr	Leu	225	230	235	240
Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Asn	Glu	Glu	Asn	Met	Glu	Glu	Pro	Ile	Ile	Ser	245	250	255	
Gly	Ile	Ala	Phe	Asn	Arg	Asp	Glu	Ala	Lys	Ile	Thr	Val	Thr	Gly	Val	260	265	270	
Pro	Asp	Lys	Pro	Gly	Ile	Ala	Tyr	Gln	Ile	Leu	Gly	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp	275	280	285	
Ala	Asn	Ile	Asp	Val	Asp	Met	Ile	Ile	Gln	Asn	Val	Gly	Ala	Asp	Gly	290	295	300	

Thr Thr Asp Phe Thr Phe Thr Val His Lys Asn Glu Met Asn Lys Ala
 305 310 315 320

Leu Ser Ile Leu Arg Asp Lys Val Gln Gly His Ile Gln Ala Arg Glu
 325 330 335

Ile Ser Gly Asp Asp Lys Ile Ala Lys Val Ser Val Val Gly Val Gly
 340 345 350

Met Arg Ser His Val Gly Ile Ala Ser Gln Met Phe Arg Thr Leu Ala
 355 360 365

Glu Glu Gly Ile Asn Ile Gln Met Ile Ser Thr Ser Glu Ile Lys Ile
 370 375 380

Ala Val Val Ile Glu Glu Lys Tyr Met Glu Leu Ala Val Arg Val Leu
 385 390 395 400

His Lys Ala Phe Gly Leu Glu Asn Ala
 405

<210> 7

<211> 1452

<212> DNA

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (98)..(1207)

<223>

<220>

<221> misc_feature

<222> (839)..(839)

<223> n = a, c, or g

<400> 7

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gtaatgccggg gttgtccggc tgaaatatcg agtcact  atg tta aaa gta ggg ttt      115
                                         Met Leu Lys Val Gly Phe
                                         1                               5

gta ggc tgg cgt ggc atg gtt gga tcc gtg cta atg cag cgc atg atg      163
Val Gly Trp Arg Gly Met Val Gly Ser Val Leu Met Gln Arg Met Met
                               10                               15                               20

cag gaa aac gat ttt gcg gat att gaa ccg caa ttc ttt acg acc tca      211
Gln Glu Asn Asp Phe Ala Asp Ile Glu Pro Gln Phe Phe Thr Thr Ser
                               25                               30                               35

caa acg gga ggg gct gcg cct aaa gtt gga aaa gat act cct gcg ctg      259
Gln Thr Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Lys Val Gly Lys Asp Thr Pro Ala Leu
                               40                               45                               50

aaa gat gcc aag gat att gat gct ttg cgc cag atg gat gtg att gtg      307
Lys Asp Ala Lys Asp Ile Asp Ala Leu Arg Gln Met Asp Val Ile Val
55                               60                               65                               70

acc tgc cag ggt ggc gat tac acg agt gac gtc ttc cca caa ttg cgc      355
Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Asp Tyr Thr Ser Asp Val Phe Pro Gln Leu Arg
                               75                               80                               85

gca acc ggc tgg agc ggc cac tgg att gac gcg gcc tct acc tta cgc      403
Ala Thr Gly Trp Ser Gly His Trp Ile Asp Ala Ala Ser Thr Leu Arg
                               90                               95                               100

atg gaa aaa gac tcc gtg atc att tta gac ccg gtg aac atg cat gtg      451
Met Glu Lys Asp Ser Val Ile Ile Leu Asp Pro Val Asn Met His Val
                               105                               110                               115

att aaa gat gca ttg tcc aat ggc ggc aaa aac tgg atc ggc ggc aac      499
Ile Lys Asp Ala Leu Ser Asn Gly Gly Lys Asn Trp Ile Gly Gly Asn
                               120                               125                               130

tgt acc gtc tca ctt atg ttg atg gcg ctg aat ggc ctg ttt aag gct      547
Cys Thr Val Ser Leu Met Leu Met Ala Leu Asn Gly Leu Phe Lys Ala
135                               140                               145                               150

gac ctg gtc gag tgg gcc act tcc atg acc tac cag gcg gct tca ggc      595
Asp Leu Val Glu Trp Ala Thr Ser Met Thr Tyr Gln Ala Ala Ser Gly
                               155                               160                               165
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gca Ala	ggc Gly	gcg Ala	cag Gln 170	aat Asn	atg Met	cgt Arg	gaa Glu 175	ctg Leu 175	att Ile	agc Ser	cag Gln	atg Met	ggc Gly 180	gta Val	gtg Val	643
aat Asn	gcc Ala	tcc Ser 185	gtg Val	gct Ala	gat Asp	ttg Leu 190	ctg Leu 190	gcg Ala	gat Asp	cca Pro	gct Ala	tct Ser 195	gcc Ala	att Ile	ttg Leu	691
cag Gln	atc Ile 200	gat Asp	aaa Lys	aca Thr	gtg Val	gcg Ala 205	gat Asp	acc Thr	atc Ile	cgt Arg	agc Ser 210	gaa Glu	gag Glu	ttg Leu	cct Pro	739
aaa Lys 215	tct Ser	aac Asn	ttt Phe	ggt Gly 220	gtg Val	cca Pro	ttg Leu	gcg Ala	ggc Gly 225	agt Ser 225	ctg Leu	atc Ile	cca Pro	tgg Trp	atc Ile 230	787
gac Asp	aag Lys	gac Asp	tta Leu 235	ggg Gly 235	aat Asn	ggt Gly	caa Gln	agt Ser 240	aaa Lys 240	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	tgg Trp	aag Lys	ggc Gly 245	ggc Gly	835
gta Val	nag Xaa	acc Thr	aat Asn 250	aag Lys	att Ile	tta Leu	ggt Gly 255	cgt Arg	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	aac Asn	ccg Pro	att Ile 260	gtg Val	att Ile	883
gac Asp	ggt Gly 265	ttg Leu	tgt Cys	gta Val	cgt Arg	atc Ile	ggc Gly 270	gcc Ala	atg Met	cgt Arg	tgc Cys	cat His 275	tca Ser	caa Gln	gcg Ala	931
ttg Leu 280	act Thr	atc Ile	aag Lys	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	aag Lys 285	gat Asp	gtg Val	ccg Pro	ctg Leu	gat Asp 290	gaa Glu	atc Ile	aat Asn	cag Gln	979
atg Met 295	ctg Leu	gct Ala	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	aac Asn 300	gac Asp	tgg Trp	gct Ala	aaa Lys 305	gtc Val	att Ile	ccc Pro	aat Asn	gag Glu	cgt Arg 310	1027
gag Glu	gtc Val	agt Ser	atg Met	cgg Arg 315	gaa Glu	ctc Leu	acc Thr	ccg Pro	gca Ala 320	gcg Ala	att Ile	acc Thr	ggc Gly 325	agt Ser	ctg Leu	1075
gcg Ala	acg Thr	cca Pro	gta Val 330	ggg Gly	cgt Arg	ttg Leu	cgc Arg	aaa Lys 335	ctg Leu	gcg Ala	atg Met	ggg Gly 340	ggg Gly	gaa Glu	tac Tyr	1123
ttg Leu	tgc Ser	gca Ala 345	ttt Phe	acc Thr	gta Val	ggt Gly	gac Asp 350	cag Gln	ttg Leu	tta Leu	tgg Trp	ggc Gly 355	gct Ala	gcc Ala	gaa Glu	1171
cct Pro 360	ttg Leu	cgc Arg	aga Arg	atg Met	ttg Leu	agg Arg 365	att Ile	ctg Leu	gtc Val	gaa Glu	tct Ser 370	taagtaattg				1217

tttaagtagc agcccgtaaa gctatgattt atcaataaaa tcatgggtctt ttcgggcttt	1277
tgctttttggt gcaatcctgt ttaatgggta ttgtagcctc aaatcctgta tttattgctc	1337
tcaagccgcc tgggtgcgct tgcgtggctg ggtgaatgat gctattttga caaacgccat	1397
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<210> 8
<211> 370
<212> PRT
<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (248)..(248)
<223> The 'Xaa' at location 248 stands for Lys, Glu, or Gln.

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<220>
<221> misc_feature
<222> (839)..(839)
<223> n = a, c, or g

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<400> 8

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Leu	Met	Gln	Arg	Met	Met	Gln	Glu	Asn	Asp	Phe	Ala	Asp	Ile	Glu	Pro
			20					25					30		
Gln	Phe	Phe	Thr	Thr	Ser	Gln	Thr	Gly	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro	Lys	Val	Gly
		35					40					45			
Lys	Asp	Thr	Pro	Ala	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ala	Lys	Asp	Ile	Asp	Ala	Leu	Arg

50

55

60

Gln Met Asp Val Ile Val Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Asp Tyr Thr Ser Asp
65 70 75 80

Val Phe Pro Gln Leu Arg Ala Thr Gly Trp Ser Gly His Trp Ile Asp
85 90 95

Ala Ala Ser Thr Leu Arg Met Glu Lys Asp Ser Val Ile Ile Leu Asp
100 105 110

Pro Val Asn Met His Val Ile Lys Asp Ala Leu Ser Asn Gly Gly Lys
115 120 125

Asn Trp Ile Gly Gly Asn Cys Thr Val Ser Leu Met Leu Met Ala Leu
130 135 140

Asn Gly Leu Phe Lys Ala Asp Leu Val Glu Trp Ala Thr Ser Met Thr
145 150 155 160

Tyr Gln Ala Ala Ser Gly Ala Gly Ala Gln Asn Met Arg Glu Leu Ile
165 170 175

Ser Gln Met Gly Val Val Asn Ala Ser Val Ala Asp Leu Leu Ala Asp
180 185 190

Pro Ala Ser Ala Ile Leu Gln Ile Asp Lys Thr Val Ala Asp Thr Ile
195 200 205

Arg Ser Glu Glu Leu Pro Lys Ser Asn Phe Gly Val Pro Leu Ala Gly
210 215 220

Ser Leu Ile Pro Trp Ile Asp Lys Asp Leu Gly Asn Gly Gln Ser Lys
225 230 235 240

Glu Glu Trp Lys Gly Gly Val Xaa Thr Asn Lys Ile Leu Gly Arg Glu
245 250 255

Ala Asn Pro Ile Val Ile Asp Gly Leu Cys Val Arg Ile Gly Ala Met

260

265

270

Arg Cys His Ser Gln Ala Leu Thr Ile Lys Leu Arg Lys Asp Val Pro
 275 280 285

Leu Asp Glu Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Ala Glu Ala Asn Asp Trp Ala Lys
 290 295 300

Val Ile Pro Asn Glu Arg Glu Val Ser Met Arg Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala
 305 310 315 320

Ala Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu Ala Thr Pro Val Gly Arg Leu Arg Lys Leu
 325 330 335

Ala Met Gly Gly Glu Tyr Leu Ser Ala Phe Thr Val Gly Asp Gln Leu
 340 345 350

Leu Trp Gly Ala Ala Glu Pro Leu Arg Arg Met Leu Arg Ile Leu Val
 355 360 365

Glu Ser
 370

<210> 9

<211> 3098

<212> DNA

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1268)..(2155)

<223>

<400> 9

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agccccc aaat ccaggatagc ctgcggtgtg ttggccacct tgaacaattt gcgggtggca	180
atattgacac ctttgtctgt cgcctgtgca gacaagatga cggcaatcag taattcgaac	240
gtggagctat gctccagctc agtggttggg ttgggggatgg cttggggccag ccgctcaa	300
atcgccagtc ttttttgtgc attcataaaa cggtttcaat cataggtcac aggggtcaacc	360
tgtcttttgc gctttgacgc gcgccatggc tgcggcaatg gcatttttct tgagcacctc	420
agttgagggg gtctcggtcg tagcaagcgt ctggttgctg ttgctgtagg tttgggcggg	480
ctcccgtttt tcaagggcga ggcgagaaag gcgttgctgg tggcgttgtc tcgctaccgc	540
gggttcagct tcattcatgg cggtagcccg accgggaatc gtttgcattc gtatgcagtc	600
cacggggcag ggcggtaaac atagctcaca gccagtgcatt tcctgggaaa tcaccgtatg	660
catcagtttg gatgcgcca aaatggcatt aacgggacag gcctgtatac acagggtgca	720
gcggatgcatt gtttcctcat caatcaaggc caccgctttg ggtttggtga tgccgtgggc	780
cggatttaac gcctggaaag gacgttgacg taatttggca agcgcatgaa tgcccgcttc	840
tcctccaggc ggacattggg tgatattggc ctctccgcgg gcgatcgctt cagcataagg	900
ttcgcatccc tcgtaaccgc attggcggca ttgagtttgc ggtaataaccg cgtcgatctt	960
tgcaatgagg tcgacaaagc gttctggcag ctccaggcga gtcccttcga cttcaatcat	1020
gtgatggcag gtgagtctgc attcggtcct ggctaaatag ccgtttaaga tgggttgcta	1080
agagttttat tataaccgaa accttgcttt tcctttggcc gggagctagg cggaaaaagc	1140
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agcaagtagg cgcgttcttt ggcgttagac cggataatca gttaaaatat tcgctttatt	1260
cttaaag atg gcg cta ggt atg tta acg ggc agt ttg gtc gca atc gtg	1309
Met Ala Leu Gly Met Leu Thr Gly Ser Leu Val Ala Ile Val	
1 5 10	
acc ccc atg ttt gaa gat gga cgt ttg gat ctg gac gcc ctc aaa aag	1357
Thr Pro Met Phe Glu Asp Gly Arg Leu Asp Leu Asp Ala Leu Lys Lys	
15 20 25 30	
ctg gtc gac ttt cat gta gag gca ggg aca gat ggt att gtc atc gtt	1405
Leu Val Asp Phe His Val Glu Ala Gly Thr Asp Gly Ile Val Ile Val	

35					40					45						
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ctg Leu	atc Ile	aaa Lys 65	acc Thr	acg Thr	atc Ile	gag Glu	cat His 70	gtc Val	gcc Ala	aag Lys	cgc Arg	gtg Val 75	cca Pro	gtc Val	att Ile	1501
gcc Ala 80	ggt Gly	act Thr	ggc Gly	gca Ala	aat Asn	tcc Ser 85	act Thr	gct Ala	gaa Glu	gcc Ala	att Ile 90	gaa Glu	ctg Leu	act Thr	gcc Ala	1549
aag Lys 95	gcc Ala	aag Lys	gcg Ala	ctt Leu	ggc Gly 100	gca Ala	gac Asp	gcc Ala	tgc Cys 105	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	gtg Val	gca Ala	ccg Pro	tat Tyr 110	1597
taa Tyr	aac Asn	aag Lys	ccc Pro	tcg Ser 115	caa Gln	gag Glu	ggt Gly	ttg Leu	tac Tyr 120	cag Gln	cac His	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	gcc Ala 125	gtg Val	1645
gct Ala	gag Glu	gcg Ala	gtc Val 130	gat Asp	att Ile	ccg Pro	caa Gln	att Ile 135	ctc Leu	tat Tyr	aat Asn	gtg Val 140	cca Pro	ggc Gly	cgc Arg	1693
acc Thr	ggt Gly	tgc Cys 145	gac Asp	ttg Leu	tct Ser	aac Asn	gac Asp 150	acc Thr	gta Val	ttg Leu	cgc Arg	ctg Leu 155	gcg Ala	cag Gln	att Ile	1741
cgc Arg 160	aac Asn	att Ile	gtc Val	ggg Gly	att Ile	aag Lys 165	gat Asp	gcg Ala	act Thr	gga Gly	ggg Gly 170	att Ile	gag Glu	cgc Arg	ggt Gly	1789
acc Thr 175	gat Asp	ttg Leu	ttg Leu	ttg Leu	cgt Arg 180	gca Ala	cca Pro	gct Ala	gat Asp	ttc Phe 185	gcc Ala	att Ile	tac Tyr	agc Ser	ggg Gly 190	1837
gat Asp	gat Asp	gcc Ala	act Thr	gcg Ala 195	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	atg Met	tta Leu 200	tta Leu	ggg Gly	ggg Gly	aaa Lys	ggc Gly 205	gtg Val	1885
att Ile	tcg Ser	gtc Val	acg Thr 210	gcc Ala	aat Asn	gtc Val	gcg Ala	ccc Pro 215	aaa Lys	tta Leu	atg Met	cat His 220	gaa Glu	atg Met	tgc Cys	1933
gag Glu	cat His	gct Ala 225	ttg Leu	aat Asn	ggc Gly	aac Asn	ctg Leu 230	gcc Ala	gca Ala	gcc Ala	aaa Lys	gcg Ala 235	gcc Ala	aat Asn	gcc Ala	1981
aaa Lys	ctg Leu	ttt Phe	gca Ala	ttg Leu	cac His	cag Gln	aag Lys	ttg Leu	ttt Phe	gta Val	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	aac Asn	ccg Pro	att Ile	2029

240	245	250	
cca gtg aaa tgg gta tta caa caa atg gga atg att gcc act ggc atc			2077
Pro Val Lys Trp Val Leu Gln Gln Met Gly Met Ile Ala Thr Gly Ile			
255	260	265	270
cggtttg ccg ctg gtc aat tta tcc agc caa tat cat gaa gta ttg cgc			2125
Arg Leu Pro Leu Val Asn Leu Ser Ser Gln Tyr His Glu Val Leu Arg			
	275	280	285
aac gcc atg aag cag gca gaa att gcc gct tgatcggcta aaactaattt			2175
Asn Ala Met Lys Gln Ala Glu Ile Ala Ala			
	290	295	
aggggtgaaac aagtgaaata catgagtcac gtttggttac aacgtttggt gctggccagt			2235
ctgggtcacag cgctttcagc gtgcgattcc atcccgttta ttgataatag ttctgactac			2295
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 <211> 296
 <212> PRT

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<400> 10

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20 25 30

Asp Phe His Val Glu Ala Gly Thr Asp Gly Ile Val Ile Val Gly Thr
35 40 45

Thr Gly Glu Ser Pro Thr Val Asp Val Asp Glu His Cys Leu Leu Ile
50 55 60

Lys Thr Thr Ile Glu His Val Ala Lys Arg Val Pro Val Ile Ala Gly
65 70 75 80

Thr Gly Ala Asn Ser Thr Ala Glu Ala Ile Glu Leu Thr Ala Lys Ala
85 90 95

Lys Ala Leu Gly Ala Asp Ala Cys Leu Leu Val Ala Pro Tyr Tyr Asn
100 105 110

Lys Pro Ser Gln Glu Gly Leu Tyr Gln His Phe Lys Ala Val Ala Glu
115 120 125

Ala Val Asp Ile Pro Gln Ile Leu Tyr Asn Val Pro Gly Arg Thr Gly
130 135 140

Cys Asp Leu Ser Asn Asp Thr Val Leu Arg Leu Ala Gln Ile Arg Asn
145 150 155 160

Ile Val Gly Ile Lys Asp Ala Thr Gly Gly Ile Glu Arg Gly Thr Asp
165 170 175

Leu Leu Leu Arg Ala Pro Ala Asp Phe Ala Ile Tyr Ser Gly Asp Asp
180 185 190

Ala Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Leu Leu Gly Gly Lys Gly Val Ile Ser
 195 200 205

Val Thr Ala Asn Val Ala Pro Lys Leu Met His Glu Met Cys Glu His
 210 215 220

Ala Leu Asn Gly Asn Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Asn Ala Lys Leu
 225 230 235 240

Phe Ala Leu His Gln Lys Leu Phe Val Glu Ala Asn Pro Ile Pro Val
 245 250 255

Lys Trp Val Leu Gln Gln Met Gly Met Ile Ala Thr Gly Ile Arg Leu
 260 265 270

Pro Leu Val Asn Leu Ser Ser Gln Tyr His Glu Val Leu Arg Asn Ala
 275 280 285

Met Lys Gln Ala Glu Ile Ala Ala
 290 295

<210> 11

<211> 3390

<212> DNA

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (2080)..(2883)

<223>

<400> 11

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gaaagcaaag ggcgtgcact cgctaaggat gaggcagccg aatctcagaa aaccacgtca	180
gagcctgtca aggccgagca agaggtattg ccctcggcca ctgcaacaaa taattcagct	240
gctgcagcga cattggctga agaagaagtg gttccctaca ttccggaggg ggagtatcag	300
gctgcaccca ctccagaaga gatggccaag ggtaatctgg atgtcagtga aaaccaggtt	360
actgaggcta aggcacatcc agtgaatgaa aaggaaatgg ctgccc aaat tgcagatacg	420
gttgagccac caccggtttt tcagcaggaa ccgatggcag aacctattgt agcggctgaa	480
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gtcattccat atattccga aggtgaatat gtggctcctg tcattcctag tgaggccgaa	780
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Ile	Ala	Gly	Val	Ser	Gly	Arg	Met	Gly	His	Ala	Leu	Leu	Asp	Gly	Val	
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Phe	Ser	Asp	Asn	Gly	Leu	Gln	Leu	His	Ala	Ala	Leu	Asp	Arg	Ala	Glu	
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Gly	Val	Lys	Ile	Thr	Ala	Asp	Ile	His	Ala	Ala	Leu	Val	Gly	Ala	Asp	
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Ala	Cys	Gln	Gln	Ala	Asn	Val	Lys	Leu	Val	Ile	Gly	Thr	Thr	Gly	Phe	
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Ser	Glu	Ala	Glu	Lys	Ala	Ser	Ile	Glu	Ala	Ala	Ser	Lys	Asn	Ile	Gly	
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Ile	Val	Phe	Ala	Pro	Asn	Met	Ser	Val	Gly	Val	Thr	Leu	Leu	Ile	Asn	
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Leu	Val	Glu	Gln	Ala	Ala	Arg	Val	Leu	Asn	Glu	Gly	Tyr	Asp	Ile	Glu	

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gac cat acg gtg gtt ctg gct ggt gtg ggt gag cga gta gag tta acg Asp His Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly Val Gly Glu Arg Val Glu Leu Thr 215 220 225			2766
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Leu Asp Arg Ala Glu Ser Ala Met Ile Gly Arg Asp Ala Gly Glu Gln
35 40 45

Phe Gly Lys Val Ser Gly Val Lys Ile Thr Ala Asp Ile His Ala Ala
50 55 60

Leu Val Gly Ala Asp Val Leu Val Asp Phe Thr Arg Pro Glu Ala Ser
65 70 75 80

Met Gln Tyr Leu Gln Ala Cys Gln Gln Ala Asn Val Lys Leu Val Ile
85 90 95

Gly Thr Thr Gly Phe Ser Glu Ala Glu Lys Ala Ser Ile Glu Ala Ala
100 105 110

Ser Lys Asn Ile Gly Ile Val Phe Ala Pro Asn Met Ser Val Gly Val
115 120 125

Thr Leu Leu Ile Asn Leu Val Glu Gln Ala Ala Arg Val Leu Asn Glu
130 135 140

Gly Tyr Asp Ile Glu Val Val Glu Met His His Arg His Lys Val Asp
145 150 155 160

Ala Pro Ser Gly Thr Ala Leu Arg Leu Gly Glu Ala Ala Ala Lys Gly
165 170 175

Ile Asp Lys Ala Leu Lys Asp Cys Ala Val Tyr Ala Arg Glu Gly Val
180 185 190

Thr Gly Glu Arg Glu Ala Gly Thr Ile Gly Phe Ala Thr Leu Arg Gly
195 200 205

Gly Asp Val Val Gly Asp His Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly Val Gly Glu
210 215 220

Arg Val Glu Leu Thr His Lys Ala Ser Ser Arg Ala Thr Phe Ala Gln
225 230 235 240

Gly Ala Leu Arg Ala Ala Lys Phe Leu Ala Asp Lys Pro Lys Gly Leu
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<222> (2467)..(2467)

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Val Thr Ala Phe Ser Ile Gln Gln	
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Gly Leu Leu His Ala Glu Asn Val Ala Leu Arg Asp Ile Ala Gln Thr	
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cat caa acg ccc act tac gtc tat tca cgt gcc gcc ttg acg act gct	870
His Gln Thr Pro Thr Tyr Val Tyr Ser Arg Ala Ala Leu Thr Thr Ala	
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Phe Glu Arg Phe Gln Ala Gly Leu Thr Gly His Asp His Leu Ile Cys	
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Phe Ala Val Lys Ala Asn Pro Ser Leu Ala Ile Leu Asn Leu Phe Ala	
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cga atg gga gcg ggc ttt gat att gtg tcc ggt ggt gag ctg gca cgc	1014
Arg Met Gly Ala Gly Phe Asp Ile Val Ser Gly Gly Glu Leu Ala Arg	
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gtc ttg gcc gca ggt ggc gac ccg aaa aaa gtg gtg ttt tct ggt gtg	1062

Val 90	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asp 95	Pro	Lys	Lys	Val	Val 100	Phe	Ser	Gly	Val	
ggc Gly 105	aaa Lys	tcc Ser	cat His	gcg Ala	gaa Glu 110	atc Ile	aaa Lys	gcc Ala	gcg Ala	ctt Leu 115	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	ggc Gly	att Ile	ctt Leu 120	1110
tgc Cys	ttc Phe	aac Asn	gtg Val	gaa Glu 125	tca Ser	gtg Val	aat Asn	gag Glu	cta Leu 130	gac Asp	cgc Arg	atc Ile	cag Gln	cag Gln 135	gtg Val	1158
gcg Ala	gcc Ala	agc Ser	ctg Leu 140	ggc Gly	aaa Lys	aaa Lys	gcg Ala	cct Pro	att Ile	tcc Ser	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	gtg Val	aac Asn	ccc Pro	1206
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aaa Lys 185	gcg Ala	gcg Ala	caa Gln	ctg Leu	cca Pro 190	aac Asn	atc Ile	gag Glu	gta Val	cac His 195	ggc Gly	gta Val	gat Asp	tgc Cys	cat His 200	1350
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Arg	Pro	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Asp	Ala	Phe	His	Asn	Ile	Thr	Thr	Ile	Ala	Thr	
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Ser	Gly	Asp	Phe	Leu	Gly	His	Asp	Arg	Thr	Leu	Ala	Ile	Glu	Glu	Gly	
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Lys	Leu	Glu	Arg	Thr	Leu	Pro										
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 <213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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 <222> (2467)..(2467)
 <223> n = a, c, g, or t
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Ser	Arg	Ala	Ala	Leu	Thr	Thr	Ala	Phe	Glu	Arg	Phe	Gln	Ala	Gly	Leu
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Thr	Gly	His	Asp	His	Leu	Ile	Cys	Phe	Ala	Val	Lys	Ala	Asn	Pro	Ser
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Leu	Ala	Ile	Leu	Asn	Leu	Phe	Ala	Arg	Met	Gly	Ala	Gly	Phe	Asp	Ile
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Val	Ser	Gly	Gly	Glu	Leu	Ala	Arg	Val	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asp	Pro
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Lys	Lys	Val	Val	Phe	Ser	Gly	Val	Gly	Lys	Ser	His	Ala	Glu	Ile	Lys
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Ala	Ala	Leu	Glu	Ala	Gly	Ile	Leu	Cys	Phe	Asn	Val	Glu	Ser	Val	Asn
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Glu Leu Asp Arg Ile Gln Gln Val Ala Ala Ser Leu Gly Lys Lys Ala
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Pro Ile Ser Leu Arg Val Asn Pro Asn Val Asp Ala Lys Thr His Pro
 145 150 155 160

Tyr Ile Ser His Pro Ala Leu Lys Asn Asn Lys Phe Gly Val Ala Phe
 165 170 175

Glu Asp Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Glu Lys Ala Ala Gln Leu Pro Asn Ile
 180 185 190

Glu Val His Gly Val Asp Cys His Ile Gly Ser Gln Ile Thr Glu Leu
 195 200 205

Ser Pro Phe Leu Asp Ala Leu Asp Lys Val Leu Gly Leu Val Asp Ala
 210 215 220

Leu Ala Ala Lys Gly Ile His Ile Gln His Ile Asp Val Gly Gly Gly
 225 230 235 240

Val Gly Ile Thr Tyr Ser Asp Glu Thr Pro Pro Asp Phe Ala Ala Tyr
 245 250 255

Thr Ala Ala Ile Leu Lys Lys Leu Ala Gly Arg Asn Val Lys Val Leu
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Pro Gly Arg Ala Leu Val Gly Asn Ala Gly Val Leu Leu Thr
 275 280 285

Lys Val Glu Tyr Leu Lys Pro Gly Glu Thr Lys Asn Phe Ala Ile Val
 290 295 300

Asp Ala Ala Met Asn Asp Leu Met Arg Pro Ala Leu Tyr Asp Ala Phe
 305 310 315 320

His Asn Ile Thr Thr Ile Ala Thr Ser Ala Ala Pro Ala Gln Ile Tyr
 325 330 335

Glu Ile Val Gly Pro Val Cys Glu Ser Gly Asp Phe Leu Gly His Asp
 340 345 350

Arg Thr Leu Ala Ile Glu Glu Gly Asp Tyr Leu Ala Ile His Ser Ala
 355 360 365

Gly Ala Tyr Gly Met Ser Met Ala Ser Asn Tyr Asn Thr Arg Ala Arg
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<213> Artificial Sequence

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